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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 295

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11, 2010

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Where do you intend to buy your holiday presents this year?

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INSIDE



'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

Senate Republicans blocked a major year-end push by Democrats to lift the military's ban on openly gay troops on Thursday

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Pavilion Makeover

The Filipino Community Foundation Inc. has taken on another worthwhile project with the rehabilitation of the pavilion the group built almost two decades ago.

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US House passes child abuse, domestic violence bills. PAGE 3

Search for new NMC president continues

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College failed to name a new president during yesterday's special board meeting and instead ruled to re-open the position to a fresh pool of candidates.

The decision comes despite NMC conducting a final interview with Rik Villegas, the sole remaining candidate vying for the post, last Dec. 3.

Villegas became the lone candidate for the NMC presidency following the withdrawal of Dr. Betsy Boze, who accepted a similar position at the College of the Bahamas.

Board chair Maria Paz Younis announced the

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), right, prepares to sign his own local bill naming a road in honor of the late Peter Steve Aiken or Chief Aiken, while Chief Aiken's daughter Keli Aiken Tenorio and her husband Norman Tenorio look on, in the speaker's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

Chief Aiken's daughter: I'm proud that my father is being honored

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Keli Aiken Tenorio remembers how her father, the late Peter Steve Aiken, rid Saipan of hundreds of thousands of live war ordnance as if it was yesterday. Chief Aiken, as her father was known back in the '60s to '80s, was

also the one who made the now Last Command Post open museum of war artifacts in Marpi that residents and tourists now know.

Decades after Chief Aiken's death, a trail or a road is on its way to be named after him, thanks to Speaker Froilan Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan) House Local Bill 17-16, Draft 1.

"We need to remember those from the past that have helped our island one way or another to make it safe or to make it better (to) live in for someone. My father, for sure, was one of those people and I am very proud and honored that we have a trail," Keli Aiken Tenorio told people gathered

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Mobil rolls back prices, while Shell hikes gas costs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Mobil Oil Marianas rolled back or reduced its pump prices by 10 to 12 cents a gallon on Thursday night, or barely a day after increasing the costs by the same amount.

But on the same night Mobil rolled back its prices, Shell Marianas increased its pump prices by 10 cents a gallon.

Thus, as of yesterday, the prices of gasoline at Shell service stations were higher by

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Local

IN FISHERMAN'S LAWSUIT VS BOAT OPERATOR, BOAT OWNER

Federal judge finds both fisherman, pilot negligent

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court has found negligence both on the part of the boat operator and the fisherman, who was injured when a motorboat drove over him as he was spear fishing at Micro Beach in 2007.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Fremming Nielsen, in a written order issued yesterday, ruled that both fisherman Pedro P. Pinault and boat operator Banga Bandhu Baidya "acted in a manner that fell below the standard of a reasonable person."

"The court determines that

comparative negligence is shared equally," said Nielsen.

The judge determined that Baidya's negligence proximately caused Pinault's injury.

Nielsen awarded Pinault a total judgment of \$3,600 in damages for his negligence claim instead of \$7,200.

The judge found Baidya and his employer, Seahorse Inc. Saipan, liable to pay Pinault damages worth \$3,600.

Nielsen dismissed the remaining claims in the lawsuit filed by Pinault and his common-law wife Linda Cruz Pangelinan.

Pinault sued defendants

Baidya and Seahorse Inc. Saipan for negligence, reckless infliction of emotional distress, and negligent training/supervision. Pangelinan joined in the lawsuit to claim for loss of consortium.

The couple demanded damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

On defendants' motion, the court had earlier struck the claim for negligent training and supervision, and demand for punitive damages.

Nielsen conducted a bench trial last Monday and Tuesday. Attorney Joseph Horey represented Pinault and Pangelinan, Attorney Richard W. Pierce served as counsel for the defendants.

According to the complaint, in mid afternoon on Aug. 25, 2007, Pinault was swimming and fishing with a sling in the shallow waters off Micro Beach.

The boat operated by Baidya came rapidly toward Pinault. To avoid being hit, he quickly submerged. However, the rope connecting him to his cooler used for collecting fish, was caught in the boat's propeller.

The rope was violently severed. The propeller also struck and cut the swimming fins Pinault was wearing.

"As a consequence of this incident, plaintiff suffered both physi-

cal and emotional injury, including shaking, difficulty walking, persistent pain and numbness in his left arm and hand, interference with sleep, loss of strength, and mobility of his left arm and hand, and a chronic fear of boats and of the sea," according to the complaint.

In the defendants' brief, Pierce denied that Baidya operated the ship in an unsafe manner. The lawyer pointed out that Pinault did not use a recommended dive flag to mark his presence and he foolishly swam/dove in a boating channel through the reef.

In his written order, Nielsen said to prove a maritime case, the plaintiffs must show that defendants failed to exercise due care while operating the boat.

"The failure to exercise care must be the proximate cause of Plaintiff's injury," Nielsen said.

The judge noted that Pinault's reliance on a white cooler to mark his position for boats without another type of marker that could be more clearly seen by boats falls below the standard of due care.

With respect to the boat operator, Nielsen said Baidya's piloting of the boat for the most part conformed to that of a reasonable person, but Baidya displayed a moment or two of inattention which led to him running over Pinault.

Nielsen said through the boat did not have any physical contact with Pinault, the propeller ripped up his fin and severed his rope.

Additionally, the judge said, the force of the accident caused Pinault to be thrown about underwater.

Nielsen said this underwater tumble ripped the Hawaiian sling from Pinault's hand causing the rubber to wrap around and tug at his wrist.

This tugging, the judge said, caused Pinault's injury.

Nielsen said the injury to Pinault's wrist made it difficult for him to continue fishing because he couldn't grip properly

and he had pain in his fingers.

"However, as his injury healed he has returned to fishing, albeit not as often as prior to the accident," Nielsen said.

The judge said though Pangelinan indicates Pinault suffers ongoing severe pain, the court does not accept her assertions.

He said Pangelinan's testimony was very self serving and not credible.

Nielsen said based on Pinault's account of the duration of injury as well as the medical records, the court estimates that his injury lasted about six months.

The judge awarded \$1,000 per month for six months for Pinault's lost income when he was unable to fish. He also awarded him \$200 per month for six months for the plaintiff's pain and suffering or for a total award of \$7,200.

On Pangelinan's loss of consortium claim, Nielsen said the only case that addresses the existence of common-law marriage in the CNMI directly concluded that the CNMI does not recognize common-law marriage.

Nielsen said Pinault and Pangelinan never had a marriage ceremony or filed a marriage certificate.

"For that reason, the claim for loss of consortium is dismissed with prejudice," the judge said.

Dismissal with prejudice means the case cannot be re-opened.

Nielsen noted that even if the CNMI recognized common-law marriages, the court would not be inclined to award damages to Pangelinan.

"Testimony of her damages was unconvincing," the judge said.

On the reckless infliction of emotional distress claim, Nielsen said such claim requires the defendant to act in an outrageous manner.

"Though defendant was negligent, his conduct was neither outrageous or extreme," said the judge in dismissing the claim with prejudice.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Marcie A. Tomokane, wish to announce that its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2009 is available for review. Comments made by the general public should be submitted no later than December 27, 2010. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Jeannie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer, at 234-9447/7689.

The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, by December 31, 2010. The CAPER encompasses the performance assessment of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth.

The report is available at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Marcie A. Tomokane
Chairman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

US House passes child abuse, domestic violence bills

»NMI coalition will receive greater funding support

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The House of Representatives approved Thursday legislation that will help victims of child abuse and domestic violence in the Northern Mariana Islands and throughout the United States.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan served as the floor manager for S. 3817, reauthorizing the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. The bill includes provisions developed by Sablan making the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence eligible for about \$240,000 in federal funding. Currently, the Northern Marianas Coalition receives no support from the

Family Violence program.

“The problem of domestic violence in our community is something that most of us have seen,” said Sablan. “But the resources to help the victims of family violence or to help families deal with the problems that lead to violent behavior are lacking.

“The Guma Esperanza on Saipan is stretched beyond capacity. And Tinian and Rota don’t even have shelters for people who need protection from the situation in their homes.

“So, I am very glad that after more than a year of hard work we have passed the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act to provide funding that the Northern Marianas Coalition needs to address domestic violence.”

S. 3817 now goes to the Senate for an expected quick approval before being sent to the President for signature into law.

Sablan was an original co-sponsor of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, H.R. 4416, in the House of Representatives, when it was introduced in November 2009. Sablan had language included that gives domestic violence coalitions in the NMI, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands a full “state” share of funding. Presently, the four territories have to share one state allocation, which in 2009 was \$240,000.

“The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence brought this

issue to my attention last year,” Sablan said. “And the timing was right to get the law amended so that the Coalition could get a full state share of funding.

“This money will enable the Coalition to improve the important shelter, counseling, and intervention and prevention services that it provides to victims of sexual and domestic assault.

“I particularly hope that this will also mean that we can have shelters on three islands—Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

“At present, the single shelter on Saipan is inaccessible to victims who are living on Tinian and Rota,” said Kilili.

Sablan introduced H.R. 4116 along with Reps. Gwen Moore (D-WI), Aaron Schock (R-IL), and Judy Biggert (R-IL).

“Members of both parties worked together to ensure the insular areas are able to provide protection to victims of domestic and sexual violence, as we do in the rest of the United States,” Sablan said.

Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT) authored the Senate companion bill, S. 3817.

The bill reauthorizes FVPSA at \$175 million each year from fiscal 2011 through 2015, the same amount currently allowed.

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence weighed in to support the bill this week. In a letter to Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller (D-CA) the coalition, which includes the National Organization of Women and other large groups, wrote that “domestic violence is a devastating, life-threatening crime that impacts one in four women over

a lifetime and 15.5 million children a year.

“FVPSA-funded programs are at the heart of our nation’s response to domestic violence – providing lifesaving services such as emergency shelter, hotline support, counseling, safety planning, legal assistance, advocacy, and primary and secondary prevention. These services not only save lives but also provide the comprehensive support victims need to recover from the physical, emotional and economic impacts of abuse.”

On Wednesday Sablan also managed floor debate on H.R. 5012, a bill establishing a program to provide nutritious food to at-risk school children on weekends and during extended school holidays during the school year. The bill passed by voice vote and now goes to the Senate for action. **(PR)**

LinC Initiative introduced to NMC community

The Northern Marianas College recently introduced the new Learning in Communities initiative to the college community.

The mission of the NMC Learning in Communities initiative is to create a supportive and inclusive learning environment that promotes the highest educational, intellectual, and social development of students.

The learning communities give students the opportunity to take linked courses developed around integrated and engaging assignments. It has been found that students are more likely to succeed if they take an integrated class and learn to be more responsible in taking courses while they develop a supportive network of friends.

In addition, the Learning in Communities initiative helps students and faculty members connect and share topics, ideas, and

assignments between classes.

Learning communities are not new in the field of higher education as they are found in many colleges and universities in the mainland. Starting this spring semester, NMC will offer courses with an “LC” designation, such as TS 103 LC1, integrating a tourism course with developmental English. This will allow students to make important connections within the two programs and ensure a transition to a four-year institute because of the designation.

According to Barbara Mervalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services, learning communities do exist in other

schools because research shows that students who participate in these initiatives have higher academic achievement, enjoy more useful interactions with the faculty, and get more involved with the campus life.

Creating the learning communities is creating the “bridge between the academic side of college and the student services side” said NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera during the general assembly. “We also want to demonstrate to the students that we do value them and their success. NMC wants to make sure that student experiences are positive.” **(NMC)**

Interior awards \$76K for Guam OPA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs awarded a \$76,000 grant to the Government of Guam’s Office of Public Accountability to fund auditor and investigator staff training. The grant will enhance the OPA’s ability to produce quality and timely audit and investigative reports. Guam auditors and investigators will participate in training programs administered by DOI’s Office of the Inspector General.

“My office is pleased to be supporting this initiative that goes a long way in improving the quality of OPA’s audit and investigative services. Funding for this program strengthens the relationship between the local and federal government elevating accountability standards and investigator capabilities,” said Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta. “Training programs of this caliber develop our institutional capacity and ensure a more effective and efficient administration of public funds.” **(OIA)**

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MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, December 17, 2010 beginning at 9:30am at 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

The following agenda is hereby established:

I. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes

II. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

III. CONSULTANTS'S REPORTS

1. Investment Consultant Report
2. Loan Administrator Report
3. Legal Counsel Report
4. Board Consultant Report

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. MPLT 10-10- HOME LOAN PORTFOLIO REHABILITATION PROGRAM
2. Update on CUC Loan Request
3. High Yield Proponents' Status Report
4. Selection and Hiring of Convertible Bond Manager

V. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Open Government Act Report
2. Trust Liability Insurance Proposal

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Legal Services RFP for Portfolio Monitoring/Review – Draft
2. Fiduciary Insurance
3. MPLT Resolutions 10-12 – MPLT HOME LOAN PROGRAM AS TO ITS ADMINISTRATION

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF

Chairman, MPLT Trustees



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Levels of PCBs Above Drinking Water Standards in Isley Reservoir with affected areas: Portions of As Perdido & Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa District 1, 2, & 3, Susupe & Oleai.

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results we received on October 26, 2010 show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for PCBs. The standard for PCBs is 0.5 ppb. PCBs were found at an average of 2.5 ppb in the Isley Reservoir water. This is an average of all samples collected from Isley Reservoir in 2010.

None of the samples collected at Isley Reservoir prior to October 1, 2010 showed detection of any PCBs. However, on October 14, 2010 CUC learned that a sample collected on October 1 from Isley Reservoir contained 10 ppb of one form of PCB. CUC immediately collected two confirmation samples; one on October 14, the other on October 19, 2010. Both samples were sent to a laboratory in California for analysis. On October 26, 2010 the laboratory notified CUC that no PCB's were detected in either confirmation sample. At that time, we then knew that the average PCB level for the Isley Reservoir water was at 2.5 ppb.

PCBs in drinking water can come from the run-off from landfills or from the discharge of waste chemicals.

Naglalaman ang report na ito ng importanteng impormasyon tungkol sa iyong iniinom na tubig. Magkaroon ng isang tao na isasalin ito sa iyong wika para sa iyo, o makipag-usap sa isang tao na nakakaintindi dito.

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이 보고는 당신의 식용수에 관하여 중요한 정보를 포함한다. 누군가에게 당신을 위해 그것을 번역해 달라고 하십시오, 또는 그것을 이해하는 누군가와 말하십시오.

What should I do?

- You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply.
- If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.

Some people who drink water containing PCBs in excess of the MCL over many years could experience changes in their skin, problems with their thymus gland, immune deficiencies, or reproductive or nervous system difficulties, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What is being done?

CUC will monitor the Isley Reservoir for PCB contamination on a quarterly basis for at least one year. We will commence collection of the required samples during the first quarter of 2011.

For more information, please contact Heidi Yelin at (670) 322-5140 or Mariano Iglecias at 235-7025 though 235-7031 or PO Box 501220 Saipan, MP 96950.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, **ABE UTU MALAE, Executive Director**

State Water System ID#: MP0000001.

Date distributed: 12/10/2010.

SHEFA disapproves payment for legal service; rejects annual report

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The board of directors of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial has decided not to pay the \$1,500 billing from the Ramon Quichocho Law Offices for the legal opinion it rendered to the previous board chaired by Felicidad Ogomoro.

The new board also refused to take action on the \$2,450 billing from Elite Printing for the production of the program's annual report during yesterday's meeting.

day's meeting.

After disagreements from members, the board voted to defer action on the annual report and instructed management to renegotiate the price and make some changes on the printing materials.

The board decision was reached following a lengthy discussion on the two items where members disclosed that both were never approved by the board.

"I don't think SHEFA should spend for something that would validate or verify the legitimacy of its members. I

am not discounting the work of the law office...but there are other options," board chair Jose Mafnas told the board prior to the voting.

Member Maggie Camacho also reiterated her stand that both transactions lacked the full board's approval and have been decided only by the previous chairperson.

She, along with member Josephine Sablan, also refused to honor the newly delivered annual report of SHEFA citing the "misrepresentation" of information and data.

ation and data.

The "controversial" annual report did not get the board's approval and excluded two members—Camacho and Sablan.

Both transactions also have questionable documents such as missing purchase orders and requisitions and "confusing" dates on invoices.

Camacho also disclosed that al-

though the previous board approved in concept the production of the annual report, it was with the condition that the material will be produced at minimal amount and will stick to black and white format to save on cost.

However, it was reported that there are over 100 copies of annual report produced in colored copies that were ordered by the previous board.

CHIEF

From Page 1

in the speaker's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

The speaker's bill passed the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation on Dec. 7, and is on its way to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's desk for action.

Froilan Tenorio said it may be his only local bill or bill to pass and become law, acknowledging his differences with other members of the Legislature. He said as he understands it, the governor will sign his local bill into local law.

The existing unnamed road from the residence of Norman and Keli Aiken Tenorio to Tapochau Road is named the "Chief Aiken Trail," under the speaker's local bill.

The speaker signed yesterday the certification of his bill's passage, for its transmission to the governor, in the presence of Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), and Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), along with Chief Aiken's daughter Keli and her husband, Norman Tenorio.

Chief Aiken came to Saipan in the early '60s and, along with 85 Chamorro and Carolinian men, initiated the removal and disposal of World War II ordnance.

Keli Aiken Tenorio, who grew up on Saipan along with her siblings, said her father was able to recover hundreds of thousands of tons of unexploded ordnance. She said her father did the same thing in other islands, but the main focus was Saipan where fierce battles were fought between American and Japanese forces during the war.

The speaker, for his part, said Chief Aiken's efforts and dedication to keep Saipan safe should not go unrecognized.

Norman Tenorio said his father-in-law was able to rebuild a Japanese

Zero or kamikaze plane which he was able to put on display on Saipan back then. But he said when Chief Aiken had to leave Saipan to attend to his sick father in the states, he offered to keep the Japanese plane on the island but the visitors bureau at the time didn't have funding for it.

Some Japanese interested in the plane bought it from Chief Aiken, he said.

Chief Aiken's revived kamikaze plane is now on display at a big aviation museum in Fukuoka, Japan, his daughter and son-in-law said. Norman Tenorio said there are only four to six Zero planes that are still intact, and one of those is the one that his father-in-law was able to rebuild after the war.

Keli Aiken Tenorio said the kamikaze plane, during the war, wasn't able to take off from the Marshall Islands because it was hit by U.S. planes on the ground. She said the pilot survived and her dad, with the help of others, was able to locate that pilot.

She said there was a big media event when Chief Aiken, who was a gunner for the U.S. forces during the war shooting kamikaze planes, and the pilot of the kamikaze plane, were able to meet each other during peace time. It was a touching scene to see the two shake hands and talk to each other, years after being enemies during the war.

Chief Aiken's daughter said her father passed away of a heart attack in the states within six months after returning there some 25 years ago.

"I think it was because his heart was really here," she said.

Keli Aiken Tenorio said her father made lots of friends on Saipan, and many still remember him.

"And I am very proud because wherever I go on this island, although he's not physically here, he's here because he's probably walked this island many times... He was very local in many ways," she added.



MONETH G. DEPOSA
SHEFA board vice chair Jose C. Leon Guerrero checks the "controversial" annual report that was approved by the previous board and was the subject of disagreement during yesterday's meeting.

SEARCH

From Page 1

decision following an hour of executive session with members.

"The Presidential Search Committee had transmitted the names of two finalists to the Board of Regents on Oct. 7, 2010. One of them withdrew, and the board interviewed the remaining candidate on Dec. 3. In its special meeting held earlier, the NMC Board of Regents unanimously decided to reopen the search for the next college president," said Younis after the executive session.

The chairperson disclosed that the board will form a new presidential search committee that will be tasked to recruit the next president in collaboration with the Association of Community Colleges Trustee.

From nine members, Younis said the board will pare its composition to five.

Younis also refused to disclose if service rendered by ACCT will be free of charge.

The board, however recognized the hard work that the members of the former search committee, led by Sgt. Edward Camacho, have placed in selecting the finalists.

"They have been extremely efficient and diligent in their work and they should all be commended," said Younis.

"We have a high level of respect for the skills and experience of the finalists, and I must stress that this was not an easy decision for the members of the board. Nonetheless, the selection of a president is one of the most important duties that we have as board members

and we must be highly confident in our selection for the benefit of our students, staff, faculty, and the community," she said.

When asked about the new timeframe for the extended search, Younis said that the board will expedite the process and she expects the search committee to name a new president before the end of January 2011.

However, details like when exactly the college will officially reopen the position were not immediately available yesterday.

But Younis assured that the board will keep the same requirements and qualifications as the previous search and those who applied before could resubmit their applications, including Villegas.

NMC hasn't had a permanent president since Jan. 12 when the board suspended then-president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. She was eventually terminated three months later on April 12.

During the extended search, Younis said interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera will remain in her position until further notice.

"As we continue the search for a new president, we ask the members of the college community to continue the excellent achievements that they accomplish on a daily basis. We also thank interim president Lorraine Cabrera as she continues to lead the college during the search extension," she said.

The board reassured the college community yesterday that its priority remains with hiring a president. The search process, they said, will continue with "integrity, transparency, and

efficiency."

'Won't affect accreditation'

Although Younis admitted that accreditation is currently the most important issue and challenge faced by the institution, she however believes that the search extension will not in any way affect the college's accreditation efforts.

NMC was placed on show-cause status after not complying with some of the standards and requirements of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Its fate will be decided by the commission after its January 2011 assembly.

"We're very optimistic [about reaffirming accreditation] because our college is really working very hard. As long as we're trying our best and doing what we could, I think that's what the accreditation commission wants to know," she said after the meeting.

Yesterday's board decision did not come as a surprise for many members of the college community. However, employees and staff interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* are worried that the process may take longer than expected.

"It's been a year that we don't have a sitting president and we're just hoping that the board will soon find one to address the instability issue of this college," one of the employees said yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that Villegas went through extensive "questioning" by members of the board last Dec. 3 where the transcript was fully reviewed by the board.

Among the attendees in yesterday's special meeting was Villegas, who left prior to the announcement of the decision. He was not in his office when visited by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday noon.

MOBIL

From Page 1

10 cents than at Mobil service stations.

Saipan motorists are wary that Mobil will increase its prices again to be at par with Shell's, but they're hoping Shell will follow Mobil's price rollback instead.

Nilo Panes, a San Jose resident, said he's thankful Mobil reinstated its old prices but he said it would have been better if the cost reduction is a lot greater especially during these tough economic times.

"Times are tough, and we need much lower prices of gas. It's hard for everyone," Panes told *Saipan Tribune* while he was filling up his pickup truck with \$7 worth of gas at Mobil's Middle Road-Garapan station.

Mobil's full-service regular gasoline is now back to \$4.059 a gallon, while its self-service regular gasoline is back to \$3.929 a gallon.

Shell's prices for the same products

are \$4.159 and \$4.029 a gallon, respectively.

Full-service super gasoline at Mobil stations is back to \$4.369 a gallon, while self-service is back to \$4.249 a gallon. Shell's prices were higher by 10 cents.

Diesel at Mobil stations is back to \$4.099 a gallon, after a 12-cent rollback.

At Shell stations, diesel is now \$4.219 a gallon.

This latest round of price changes came barely a month after both Mobil and Shell raised their prices by 5 cents a gallon in early November.

The prices displayed at the gasoline service stations are for self-service.

Other motorists said with more expenses awaiting them as Christmas approaches, they cannot afford to pay more for gasoline.

Shell and Mobil do not issue advance notice of price increases. Saipan motorists know about such price changes by the price displays at gasoline service stations.

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Cantaloupe

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99¢ LB.

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Icic Water
20X500ML.

\$4.99 CS.

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4,000-6,000ml.

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Maxwell House Coffee Mix
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 295Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Arizona's overreach

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court will hear a challenge to an Arizona immigration law, but not the notorious one that requires police to check the immigration status of people they detain and suspect of being illegal. The law the court will take up, which is aimed at employers that hire illegal workers, is much less objectionable as a matter of policy. But, like the more infamous statute, it encroaches on the authority of the federal government to regulate immigration. The justices should strike it down.

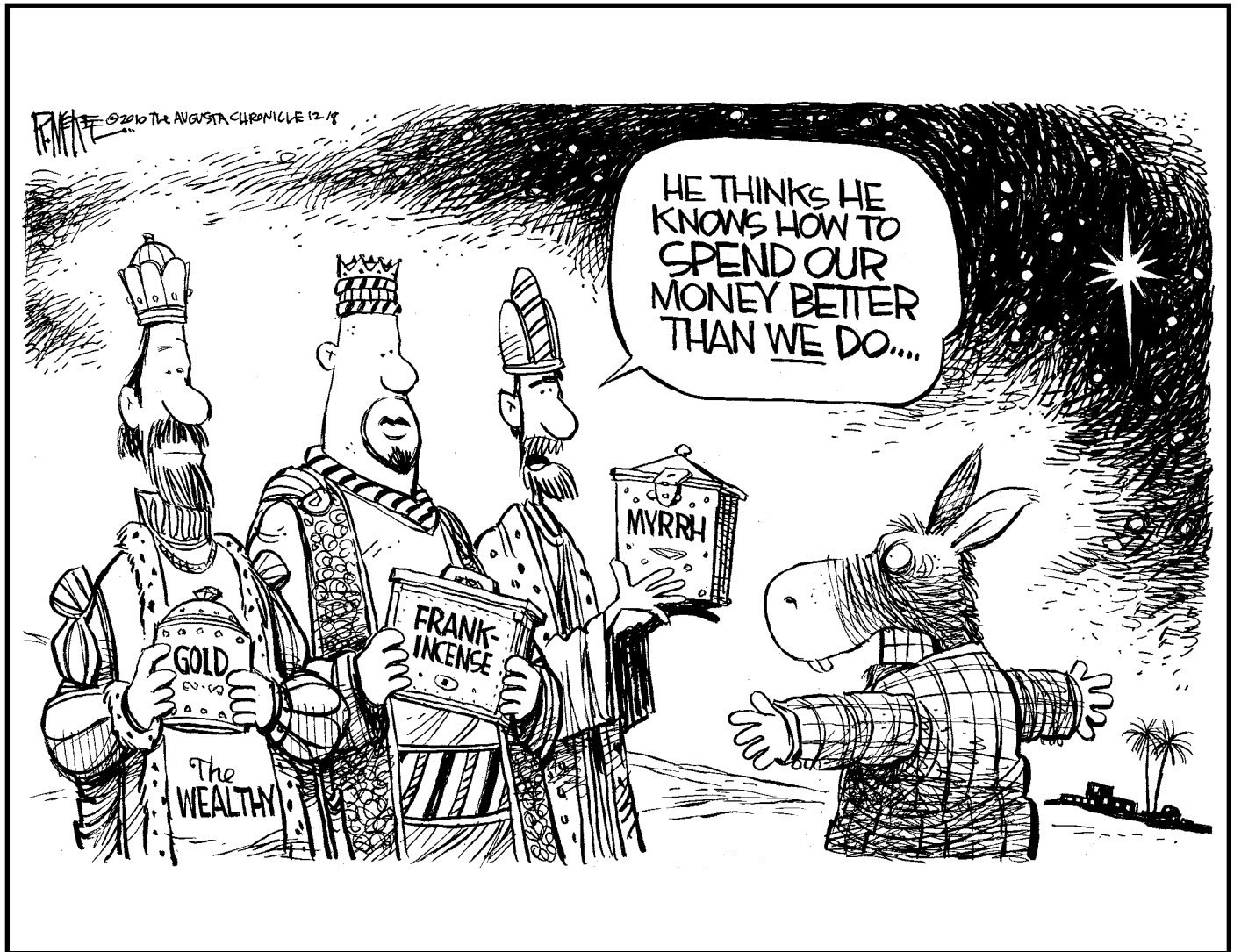
The Legal Arizona Workers Act aims to accomplish something everyone in the immigration debate claims to want: a crackdown on employers who encourage illegal immigration with lax hiring policies. The law would punish employers who hire illegal workers with a series of penalties leading up to a revocation of the company's charter or articles of incorporation, effectively closing the business down. Also, the law requires employers to check the status of prospective employees by using E-Verify, an Internet-based documentation system.

Although one could quibble with the specific sanctions in the Arizona law, the idea of penalizing employers who hire illegal workers is essential to effective enforcement of immigration laws, with or without enactment of comprehensive immigration reform. It's also vital that there be an expeditious way to check a worker's status. E-Verify may not be perfect, but some such system is necessary.

The problem with the Arizona law is that the state is seeking to legislate in an area reserved to the federal government. As the Obama administration pointed out in its brief, Arizona's procedures conflict with federal procedures for dealing with the hiring of illegal workers. And by making the use of E-Verify mandatory, the state overrode a decision by Congress that—with rare exceptions—use of the system be voluntary.

In defending its statute, Arizona cites language in federal law allowing states to legislate in immigration matters involving "licensing and similar laws." But the Obama administration argues that this is a licensing law in name only. "No licenses are issued under the statute, and it does not regulate licensees' professional conduct or fitness to do a particular business," the administration says in its brief. "It only imposes punishment, and only for violation of a single, across-the-board rule."

Like its other, more objectionable immigration law, Arizona's law cracking down on the hiring of illegal workers claims for the state authority that properly belongs to Congress. The court should therefore overturn it. But the frustration felt in Arizona—and elsewhere—over lackluster federal enforcement of immigration law should lead Congress to exercise its authority and approve stricter sanctions.



China runs big risks coddling N. Korea

Everyone says the key to controlling nuclear North Korea's bizarre behavior lies with China. Since the North Koreans shelled a South Korean island last month and renewed fears of war on the Korean peninsula, all eyes have focused on Beijing.

China is the North's only ally and its main supplier of food and fuel. So the world was watching to see whether Beijing would promote stability in the region by restraining Pyongyang.

Instead China chose to play Russian—excuse me—Chinese roulette.

Chinese leaders refused last week to criticize their North Korean neighbor, gambling that it won't provoke more bloodshed. That's a gamble with bad odds.

The Hermit Kingdom is going through a leadership transition, from dying dictator Kim Jong Il to his 26-year-old son, Kim Jong Un. Korea analysts contend Pyongyang is behaving even more aggressively than usual so as to bolster young Kim's standing.

The Chinese fear a North Korean collapse would destabilize their border—and destroy a state that buffers it from U.S. military forces in South Korea. So they put up with Pyongyang's reckless acts.

"China probably thinks North Korea won't cross any red lines and things won't blow up," says the University of Pennsylvania's Jacques deLisle, a China expert. "They think North Korea will muddle through, and eventually follow the Chinese route to economic reform."

But what if the Chinese are wrong?

North Korea has repeatedly rejected market reforms, and it remains an economic basket case. In 2009, Pyongyang quit six-party talks that offered U.S. recognition and substantial aid if it would give up its nuclear program. Before quitting the talks, the North Koreans incurred U.N. condemnation by testing a missile; they conducted a nuclear test soon afterward.

Recently, North Korea revealed it has a fully developed program to produce highly enriched uranium for weapons, in addition to its plutonium program. Most experts say they believe it no longer wants to give up its nukes but is angling to be recognized as a full nuclear power.

Yet China does little to rein in its ally. When North Korean torpedoes sank a South Korean naval vessel in March, killing 46 crewmen, Beijing refused even to acknowledge that the North was to blame.

After the latest North Korean attack on the South Korean island, Chinese officials stayed "neutral" and blocked the U.N. Security Council from condemning Pyongyang. Only when the Obama administration sent an aircraft carrier to the Yellow Sea to support South Korea did Beijing make an inadequate gesture, suggesting a return to a new version of the failed six-party talks.

Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen rightly responded

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

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last week: "Beijing's call for consultations will not substitute for action." There's no point in renewing talks until China is ready to restrain its reckless neighbor.

"China is uniquely placed to guide North Korea to a less dangerous place," Mullen added. Although it claims that its leverage on Pyongyang is limited, Big Brother China has the means to exert severe pressure—if it chooses to act.

Of course, Chinese officials talk a good game about wanting a peaceful Korean peninsula and an end to North Korea's nuclear program. But they did little to make the six-party talks successful. A senior South Korean official complained in a cable revealed by WikiLeaks that Beijing's chief representative to the talks was "incompetent" and "knows nothing about North Korea, nothing about non-proliferation."

China appears to have turned a blind eye to North Korean efforts to export its weapons technology for hard currency: Another WikiLeaks cable indicates Beijing may have allowed North Korean sales of long-range missiles or missile parts to transit to Iran via Beijing airport. Down this road lies the export of fissile material or even nuclear weapons themselves.

Indeed, the North Korea crisis will test whether China has any desire to play a constructive leadership role in Asia. Most of China's neighbors are already unnerved by its aggressive behavior in disputes over territorial waters—behavior that undercuts efforts to sell itself as a benign power.

China's coddling of Pyongyang has further alarmed the public in Japan and South Korea. Beijing is driving Asian nations to tighten their security ties with Washington.

A visionary China would work with Japan, South Korea, and the United States to facilitate a peaceful Korean transition, one that wouldn't threaten Chinese interests. Otherwise, Chinese officials may be blindsided by a war provoked by North Korea, or by its sudden collapse.

A farsighted Beijing would cease playing Chinese roulette and be proactive on North Korea. This would entail risk, but the odds are far more favorable for China than the shortsighted game it is playing, which leaves the gun in Pyongyang's hands.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Para Games Guangzhou 2010

The Paralympic flame that torched out of Beijing a week ago burns brightly around the city of Guangzhou as a series of weeklong relays will culminate tomorrow on the grounds of the recently concluded Asian Games. Themed “*We cheer, we share, we win*,” the Para Games encourages effort that may otherwise be ignored, perceived as dull, or worst, charitably patronized as a ho-hum sports event. Paralympic athletes—“differently-abled” in the words of a CCTV announcer—vie for medals and glory during this weeklong tourney.

I remember a bout of ague while living in Mactan in the Philippines after returning from a Mindanao trip, and my colleagues in the village of Sudtonggan decided to procure a masseuse’s acupressure service (*hilot*). Having grown up in the antiseptic health wards and environs of a Protestant household with its pharmacology-centered approach v. germs and viruses, I was skeptical of anyone except a white-frosted practitioner who sticks a thermometer under one’s tongue. More so for the services of one who was blind.

Needless to say, an hour of kneading sweated out a fever out of my muscles. This acute sense of how nature works is what enables the differently-abled, lacking normal acuity in any or combination of sight, sound, smell, taste and touch, to accentuate and rely on cognitive and intuitive faculties they have, rather than dwell on despairing over sense perceptions they may not have. The best massage providers anywhere in the world are devoid of the ability to see.

World Disability Day in India with the theme “United We Stand” for equality and justice to the disabled was observed a week ago, not particularly remarkable in itself except that what was once perceived as the source of paranormal gifts in the profundity of Hindu thought was reversed by Victorian morality to be a consequence of “sin”, and thereby, a sign of weakness, a byproduct of iniquity. India, along with about 50 nationals from around the world, are present in the Para Games this week to display the gifts and exhibit the

talents of the differently-abled.

Father to two children diagnosed with autism, we are keen to notice those who show a heightened focus on a sense perception. My daughter portrayed more than a touch of wildness in color and form by the time she was 3, in lieu of skills in social discourse and interpersonal empathy. We encouraged her, however, to express latent archetypal memories; she drew mandala-like designs with colored chalks on cement surfaces. We celebrated her skill rather than delve into explanations of the absence of certain aptitude, more so when the visual aptitude waned as intervention to her communication skills took hold. As her other senses began to be utilized, her dependence on one sense ebbed. When others fail to transcend singularity of skill, we label them idiot savants.

A young man was once shown on TV, after being helicopter-flown over Manhattan for a few hours, in a room with board and chalk where he drew a detailed picture of what he recalled, displaying a photographic memory with fealty to precision on proportion and shape that none of us mere mortals would be capable of doing.

We remember this memory wonder as we watched a World Memory Competition also in Guangzhou last week. Dustin Hoffman once portrayed an autistic person in the movie, *The Rain Man*. His character recalled sequences and counted units in a flash, innocently “used” by younger brother Tom Cruise in Las Vegas to win at one of the gaming tables.

The international crowd gathered in Guangzhou for the memory competition was similarly gifted with paranormal mental acuity and it is a great stride in humanity’s progress to acknowledge the wonder of these talents. YouTube is now replete with clips of differently-abled persons performing incredible acts overcoming the limitation of what we refer to as their “disabilities,” and claiming the possibilities of their other abilities.

“Just call me Nobody” (*Da Xiao Jianghu*) is the title of a newly released comedy movie of a small potato trying to be a big shot.

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.



This self-deprecating quality of the Chinese *yin-yang* is often misunderstood since the Western screen of singularity of meaning cannot see that beyond the self-surrender of fame and fortune is the affirmation of a confident selfhood—self-assured, self-reliant, and self-motivating. The emerging voluntary sector among China’s young, seen in the Beijing Olympics, the Shanghai Expo and the Asian Games Guangzhou 2010, but also evident in many of the natural disasters that had recently visited the Asian mainland, is going to be a force to reckon with v. the stringent discipline of the traditional and entrenched uniformed corps.

On display during the Games is artwork of mentally disabled artists, including famous portraits of Barack Obama and Michael Jackson. Many among the homeless in our urban centers suffer from this disability, a point often made by our advocates at NMPASI. But like other marginalized members of our society, they and others who are differently-abled are often the ignored and neglected ones who inevitably join the ranks of the innocent suffering in our midst. This occurs in societies of affluence and opulence but makes it more tragic when it is evident in conditions of penury and poverty.

The Para Games lifts the flame of the human spirit to be affirming of the diversity and myriad of differences in individual talents and abilities. It is well for all to keep that torch aglow.

Will and Kate, can’t you pick another date?

By **SUSAN J. GORDON**

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Heartily felicitations on your engagement, Kate and William. Most of your wedding decisions sound great, but your choice of the date has sent me reeling in shock.

Maybe you didn’t know that April 29 was the day Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun in 1945. But surely, someone in the royal household might have checked. Sixty-five years later, that early morning ceremony in a Berlin bunker still sends shivers up and down many spines.

Fooing around with the Fates is always risky; can’t you pick another day? Or, as my grandmother used to say to the fruit man when he offered her bruised bananas, “Is this the best you can do?”

Certainly, there are things even future sovereigns can’t control, like awful weather or those dreaded last-minute cancellations after you’ve spent weeks determining who sits where and it’s too late to get a refund from the caterer. But you should have no trouble finding a new date for your nuptials. When you strolled around Westminster Abbey, I wish you had thought about some of the great people who are interred and remembered there, and chosen one of their wedding days instead.

For starters, there were King Edward the Confessor and Edith Godwin, married on Jan. 23, 1045. Everyone was glad when Edward ascended to the throne, replacing that wretched Dane, Har-

thacanute, who had treated England shabbily. Edith’s father, the pushy Earl of Wessex, introduced her to the native-born monarch, who thought she was beautiful and bright as well as suitably God-fearing. She thought Edward was affable and gentle, although a bit pale. Most of the time, their kingdom was at peace, and they devoted themselves to religion and early construction of Westminster Abbey.

June 11, 1594, was the wedding day of English poet Edmund Spenser and Elizabeth Boyle, and it was “the joyfulest day that ever sun did see,” he said. She _ not the Virgin Queen _ inspired her remarkable husband, “the Prince of Poets of His Tyme,” to write some of the finest Elizabethan love poems. Describing his bride, he wrote, “Her goodly eyes like sapphires shining bright, her forehead ivory white, Her cheeks like apples which the sun hath rudded, Her lips like cherries charming men to bite.”

Poet William Wordsworth married Mary Hutchinson on Oct. 4, 1802. “Oh William,” she wrote, “I cannot tell thee how I love thee, and thou must not desire it _ but feel it, O feel it in the fullness of thy soul and believe that I am the happiest of wives.” He replied: “I love thee so deeply and tenderly and constantly ... that I scarcely can bring my pen to write of anything else.” Much of Will’s best work, including completion of “The Prelude,” was written after his marriage to Mary. Eventually, he became poet laureate of England.

One of the world’s most romantic love stories began on Sept.

12, 1846, when 39-year-old Elizabeth Barrett slipped out of her father’s London townhouse to marry the 33-year-old poet and playwright Robert Browning. The wedding ring was put on and quickly removed before the bride and groom left by separate doors. One week later, they ran off to Italy, after Elizabeth escaped her tenacious father’s grasp and home forever. As she later wrote in “Sonnets from the Portuguese,” because of Robert, “the face of all the world has changed.”

Will and Kate, if you are still determined to marry in April, how about when Elizabeth, the future Queen Mum, married Prince Albert in 1923? They were married in Westminster Abbey on the 26th. Elizabeth knew that marrying into the royal family meant a life governed by rules and restrictions, and she expected to be only the Duchess of York. No one anticipated that “Bertie’s” older brother Edward would renounce the throne to marry Wallis Simpson 14 years later. And no one foresaw that Elizabeth’s warmth, sincerity and strong sense of duty would help restore the monarchy to public favor after that scandalous abdication. She would always be the favorite of her father-in-law, King George V. Years later, he recalled that April 26 “was rather gray and inclined to rain, but as soon as the bride arrived at the Abbey, the sun shone as it always does in her presence.”

Susan J. Gordon is the author of Wedding Days: When & How Great Marriages Began. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Culture clash over sexual abuse in Congo

By **HERITIER MAILA**

THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

LUBUMBASHI, Congo—Just about anywhere else in the world, local residents would applaud the prosecution of two men accused of marrying under-age girls.

But this is the Congo, where traditional practices sometimes run counter to the rule of law. So instead of being praised by local residents, local prosecutors who brought charges against the pair were attacked by angry mobs.

Here in the southeast section of the Democratic Republic of Congo, local residents say the marriage of children to older men is common. Despite the fact that the new Congolese law sets the age of consent at 18, few expected two men to be brought up on charges of sexual violence for marrying a 9-year-old and a 13-year-old girl respectively.

When the pair were convicted and sentenced to 20 years in prison, the magistrates involved in the case were attacked in their homes and had their offices ransacked and set on fire by an angry mob.

“With the help of the (U.N.) mission for stability in the Congo, I was brought to the Don Bosco hospital in Lubumbashi to get appropriate care,” said Bukama magistrate Charles Kabozia as he lay in his hospital bed, his face and back marked with wounds.

“In this country, honest people are not liked. I was beaten up only because I did my work correctly,” he said.

So far, no arrests have been made in connection with the attacks.

“How can those who render justice be attacked?” asked Esabe Kamulete, the general prosecutor in Katanga province.

“We must rigorously eradicate sexual violence in this country. We will not step back because of this intimidation. We will do everything with the help of the police to deploy a special team to go down to Bukama, find these criminals, arrest and prosecute them.”

But even injured magistrate Kabozia concedes changing local attitudes won’t be easy.

“For Bukama’s inhabitants, getting married to a 13-year-old is normal since it is has always been done,” he said. “The population does not understand how and why this can be in breach of the law.

And this practice belongs to their tradition.”

Matthieu Monga, from Bukama, who now lives in Lubumbashi, typifies local attitudes.

“I don’t see what’s wrong with these kinds of weddings,” he said. “Where is the problem if someone marries a girl under 18? We have our traditions that we shouldn’t lose.






“These days, everything is dramatized. Our grandfathers used to marry girls of 13, 14 or 15 and they had babies without any problem. Why should it be a problem today? My mother is now 60, and she told me that my father married her when she was 15. There are 12 children from this union,” he said.

Heritier Maila is a reporter in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who writes for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict. Readers may write to the author at the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, 48 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8LT, U.K.; Web site: www.iwpr.net.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Rain	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Rain	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲84 ▼76
Kosrae	Rain	▲85 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲83 ▼76

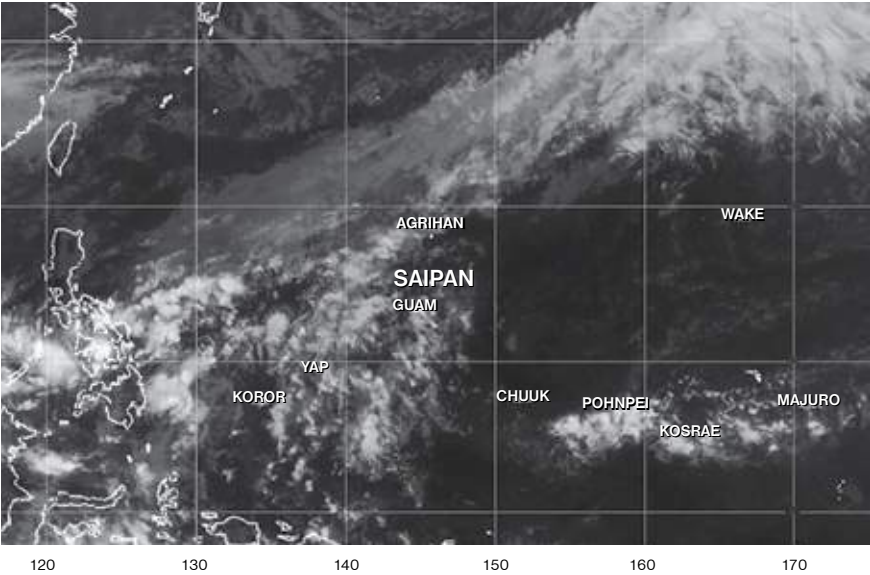
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲72 ▼63
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲40 ▼23
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲73 ▼57
Honolulu	Showers	▲80 ▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲39 ▼35
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74 ▼51
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼54
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼60
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲43 ▼38
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲52 ▼42
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲41 ▼35
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲51 ▼32
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼43
Salem	Rain	▲49 ▼48
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲65 ▼54
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲39 ▼23
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲55 ▼45
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲45 ▼39

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
5:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet	
12:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
6:23 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet	
10:32 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from west of Minami Torishima at 25N150E to north of Palau at 15N135E then continues as a warm front to beyond 130E at 14N. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain are occurring along and up to 300 miles northwest of the cold front including Iwo To island. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are evident along and up to 230 miles northwest of the warm front. Converging south winds farther south of the warm front are producing similar weather west and northwest of Koror within 45 miles of a line from 6N133E to 11N131E to 13N130E. A surface trough runs northward from 4N139E to 12N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near the trough over Yap and south of Guam or within 70 miles of a line from 3N138E to 11N139E to 9N145E. A second surface trough reaches northward from 3N149E to 9N151E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found in the vicinity of the trough from well southwest to just south of Chuuk within 60 miles of a line from 3N144E to 8N148E to 6N152E. Surface convergence west of a trade-wind disturbance near the date line is causing widely scattered showers over the Marshall Islands between 5N and 10N from 165E to 176E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Monday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Tuesday	6:34 AM	5:49 PM
Wednesday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:39 AM	10:38 PM
Sunday	11:16 AM	11:24 PM
Monday	11:51 AM	
Tuesday	12:25 PM	12:10 AM
Wednesday	1:01 PM	12:56 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily	DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:40pm	6 via GUM	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC 			
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991			
San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English			
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm			
PROTESTANT 			
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org			
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions			
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)			
Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158			
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sis Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sis FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620			
Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm			
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
First Baptist Church Koblerville Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4664/2			
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			
Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call <i>Saipan Tribune</i> at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com .			

Business

Protests, cyber-skirmishes rage over WikiLeaks issue

LONDON (AP)—Skirmishes raged across cyberspace Thursday between WikiLeaks supporters and the companies they accuse of trying to stifle the group, with websites on both sides of the battle line taken out of service or choked off by attacks.

The U.N.'s top human rights official raised the alarm over officials' and corporations' moves to cut off WikiLeaks' funding and starve it of server space—something she described as a “potentially violating WikiLeaks' right to freedom of expression.”

Navi Pillay also expressed surprise at the scale of the online attacks that have targeted major American financial players—in some cases denying access to their websites for hours at a time.

“It's truly what media would call a cyber-war. It's just astonishing what is happening,” Pillay told reporters in Geneva.

WikiLeaks has been under intense pressure since it began publishing some 250,000 secret U.S. diplomatic cables, with attacks on its websites and threats against its founder, Julian Assange, who is now in a British jail fighting extradition to Sweden on sex crime allegations.

U.S. officials say WikiLeaks' actions have thrown diplomacy into disarray, caused countries to curtail dealings with America and, in the case of an earlier release of classified military documents, put the lives of informants at risk.

While U.S. allies have also criticized WikiLeaks, some world leaders have questioned the arrest of Assange.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, questioning the reliability of leaked U.S. cables referring to his nation as

undemocratic and corrupt, said the fact that Assange is in custody shows the West has its own problems with democracy.

“Why was Mr. Assange hidden in prison?” Putin asked at a news conference. “Is this democracy?”

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said he was surprised by the lack of outcry against Assange's arrest.

“This WikiLeaks guy was arrested and I'm not seeing any protest for freedom of expression,” Silva said Thursday in Brasilia. “There is nothing, nothing for freedom of expression and against the imprisonment of this guy who was doing better work than many of the ambassadors.”

Many U.S.-based Internet companies have cut their ties to WikiLeaks, including MasterCard Inc., Visa Inc., Amazon.com, PayPal Inc. and EveryDNS. Those moves have hurt WikiLeaks' ability to accept donations and support publishing efforts—and touched off a bout of Web-based warfare.

Retaliatory attacks—which WikiLeaks says it does not sanction—have been claimed by a loose-knit group of “hacktivists” who gather under the handle “Anonymous.”

They are using a modified version of software generally used to conduct “stress testing” on websites, according to Paul Mutton, an analyst with the London-based company Netcraft, which is tracking the attacks.

The technique allows even unsophisticated supporters to participate in attacks because all they have to do is download the file, which is then remotely operated to send a stream of bogus page requests to target websites.

Way cleared for tax cut bill; energy breaks added

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House and key lawmakers in both parties cleared the way Thursday night for swift Senate action to avert a Jan. 1 spike in income taxes for most Americans, agreeing to renew expiring breaks for ethanol and other forms of alternative energy.

Tax provisions aimed at increasing production of hybrid automobiles, biodiesel fuel, energy-efficient homes, coal and energy-efficient household appliances would be extended through the end of 2011 under the bill, according to a summary that circulated in Congress.

Officials said debate could begin on the measure within hours. There was no timetable for a final vote, but the decision to expand the scope of

the original bill capped days of secret negotiations aimed at increasing support.

The events unfolded as the White House predicted that the deal President Barack Obama struck with top Republicans would clear by year's end—even though House Democrats voted Thursday not to allow it to reach the floor without changes to scale back tax relief for the rich.

“If it's take it or leave it, we'll leave it,” said Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, after a closed-door meeting in which rank-and-file Democrats chanted, “Just say no.”

“The deal will get passed,” said presidential press secretary Robert Gibbs. There were no predictions to the contrary among senior Democrats on either side of the Capitol.

Nation

Senate blocks repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans blocked a major year-end push by Democrats to lift the military's ban on openly gay troops on Thursday, dealing a huge blow to gay rights groups' hopes for repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" any time soon. President Barack Obama instantly appealed to lawmakers to make another, last-ditch try before going home for the year.

The day's dramatic events left the fate of the issue in limbo, with lawmakers eager to adjourn and still facing numerous other contentious issues.

The Senate's 57-40 vote fell three short of the 60 needed to

overcome procedural hurdles to lift the 17-year-old ban. Sen. Susan Collins of Maine was the lone Republican voting to advance the bill, and Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia was the only Democrat to vote against it.

The rejection was a defeat for Obama, who campaigned promising to overturn the law and later called it one of his top legislative priorities for the year. But in recent weeks the White House has done little to push the legislation, focusing its influence instead on tax cuts and a nuclear arms treaty with Russia.

Obama wasn't giving up. He said the ban "weakens our na-

tional security, diminishes our military readiness and violates fundamental American principles of fairness, integrity and equality." And he said repeal is supported by the military and the American people.

"I urge the Senate to revisit these important issues during the lame duck session," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid was biting in his comments about Republican foes. "The other side may feel passionately that our military should sanction discrimination based on sexual orientation, but they are clearly in the minority," he said. "And they have run out of excuses."

But Republicans faulted him for the way the issue was brought to a vote, saying the procedure sealed the outcome.

The 1993 law bans gay troops from publicly acknowledging their sexual orientation. A repeal provision was included in a broader defense policy bill and passed last spring in the House.

More than 60 senators were expected to support repeal of the ban, including at least four Republicans. But GOP senators were united in demanding that the chamber vote on tax cuts first. They also wanted assurances by Reid they would be given extensive time to debate the defense bill, which

contained other divisive provisions including one that would allow abortions at overseas military facilities.

Two senators, Republican Collins and independent Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, said they now would introduce a stand-alone measure to repeal "don't ask, don't tell." Its prospects are uncertain, though Reid indicated he was open to bringing it up before adjournment. If passed, it still would require House approval with time growing short.

Gay rights advocates were furious about Thursday's events.

"Instead of doing what is right, the world's greatest de-

liberative body devolved into shameful schoolyard spats that put petty partisan politics above the needs of our women and men in uniform," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign.

Democrats had said Thursday morning they remained hopeful a last-minute deal could be struck with Collins, believing her support would persuade other GOP senators—namely Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown and Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski—to advance the legislation.

In the end, however, Reid said time was running out and called for a vote before a deal could be struck.



Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., and Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, at a news conference following the defeat of a cloture motion of the Defense Authorization Bill containing repeal of the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' provision on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010.

Democrats delay action on young immigrants bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate moved Thursday to delay a politically charged showdown vote on legislation carving out a path to legal status for foreign-born youngsters brought to this country illegally, putting off but probably not preventing the measure's demise.

Facing GOP objections, Democrats put aside the so-called Dream Act and said they'd try again to advance it before year's end. They're short of the 60 votes needed to do so, however, and critics in both parties quickly said they won't change their minds in the waning days of the Democratic-controlled Congress.

"This is mainly a political exercise rather than a serious attempt to deal with our broken immigration system," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska, one of several Democrats who have broken with their leaders to oppose the bill, said he too would block efforts to consider it.

The bill grants hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants brought to the United

States as children a chance to gain legal status if they enroll in college or join the military.

The House passed it Wednesday night after Democratic leaders painstakingly lined up the votes to push it through. Just eight Republicans joined Democrats to support it while almost 40 Democrats defected to vote "no."

In the Senate, Democrats had virtually no chance of attracting any GOP support to move the legislation since all 42 Republicans have signed a letter pledging to block action on any issue until bills to extend expiring tax cuts and fund the government were completed.

The White House said the Senate's postponement was "the right way to move forward" to get bipartisan support for the bill. In a statement, press secretary Robert Gibbs called the measure "the right thing to do for our nation, our economy and our security."

There's no indication, though, that Democrats will be able to gather the 60 votes needed for quick action on an issue as emotional and compli-

cated as immigration.

"We have to demonstrate that we are serious about fixing our broken immigration system, we have to secure the border, we have to enforce our laws, and then I think the natural compassion of the American people will kick in, and they'll let us deal with these sympathetic situations like these kids who are not culpable, but were brought here by their parents and find themselves at a dead end," Cornyn said.

The measure is viewed by Hispanic activists and immigrant advocates as a down payment on what they had hoped would be broader action by President Barack Obama and Congress to give the nation's 10 million to 12 million undocumented immigrants a chance to gain legal status.

It targets the most sympathetic of the millions of undocumented people—those brought to the United States as children, who in many cases consider themselves American, speak English and have no ties to or family living in their native countries.

FAA loses track of 119,000 aircraft

NEW YORK (AP)—The Federal Aviation Administration is missing key information on who owns one-third of the 357,000 private and commercial aircraft in the U.S.—a gap the agency fears could be exploited by terrorists and drug traffickers.

The records are in such disarray that the FAA says it is worried that criminals could buy planes without the government's knowledge, or use the registration numbers of other aircraft to evade new computer systems designed to track suspicious flights. It has ordered all aircraft owners to re-register their planes in an effort to clean up its files.

About 119,000 of the aircraft on the U.S. registry have "questionable registration" because of missing forms, invalid addresses, unreported sales or other paperwork problems, according to the FAA. In many cases, the FAA cannot say who owns a plane or even whether it is still flying or has been junked.

Already there have been cases of drug traffickers using phony U.S. registration numbers, as well as instances of mistaken identity in which police raided

the wrong plane because of faulty record-keeping.

Next year, the FAA will begin canceling the registration certificates of all 357,000 aircraft and require owners to register anew, a move that is causing grumbling among airlines, banks and leasing companies. Notices went out to the first batch of aircraft owners last month.

"We have identified some potential risk areas, but I think we're trying to eliminate as much risk as possible through the re-registration process," said FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown.

The FAA says security isn't the only reason it needs an up-to-date registry. Regulators use it to contact owners about safety problems, states rely on it to charge sales tax, and some airports employ it to bill for landing fees. Also, rescuers use the database to track down planes that are missing.

But the FAA has emphasized the security and law enforcement angle as the new measure has moved through the rule-making process over the past two years. The agency says the paperwork gap is becoming a

bigger problem as authorities increasingly rely on computers to tighten aviation security in the wake of 9/11 and other terrorist plots.

There have already been cases of criminals using U.S. registration numbers, also known as N-numbers or tail numbers, to disguise their airplanes. In 2008, Venezuela authorities seized a twin-engine plane with the registration number N395CA on the fuselage and more than 1,500 pounds of cocaine on board.

Soon afterward, airplane owner Steven Lathrop of Ellensburg, Wash., received a call from a reporter.

"He sort of started the conversation with, 'Do you know where your airplane is? ... Your airplane's in a jungle in South America,'" Lathrop said.

Lathrop's Piper Cheyenne II XL was locked safely in its hangar at the Ellensburg airport. The smugglers had apparently chosen his tail number because the model was similar to their plane.

"Anybody with a roll of duct tape can put any number they want on an airplane," Lathrop said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Jury convicts 3 officers in post-Katrina death

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A federal jury on Thursday convicted three current or former New Orleans police officers but acquitted two others in the death of a man during Hurricane Katrina's chaotic aftermath. The jury of seven women and five men on convicted former officer David Warren of manslaughter in the shooting death of 31-year-old Henry Glover outside a strip mall on Sept. 2, 2005. The jury also convicted Officer Gregory McRae of burning Glover's body in a car. Lt. Dwayne Scheuermann was acquitted of that charge.

2 brothers killed in blast at W.Va. chemical plant

NEW CUMBERLAND, W.Va. (AP)—Two brothers who lived within walking distance of the small chemical plant where they worked were killed Thursday in an explosion there. Two others were injured. The blast happened around

1:30 p.m. at the AL Solutions Inc. plant in New Cumberland, a small town in West Virginia's northern Panhandle about 33 miles west of Pittsburgh. The first officer on the scene, Lt. Jeremy Krzys, said he had been sitting at a traffic light when he heard the explosion and immediately rushed to the plant.

Ohio couple's house robbed while woman gave birth

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio military veteran and his fiancée say thieves broke into their home and stole Christmas presents and other items while they were at a hospital for their son's birth. WBNS-TV reports that a relative called Tom Sheehan and Tonya Verduga at the hospital after finding their Columbus home in shambles. The couple's son was born Tuesday. Sheehan says TVs, a laptop, jewelry and Christmas presents they had bought for Verduga's two older sons were all stolen.

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Asia

Heavy rains flood towns in eastern Australia



In this undated photo provided by the Lake Burrendong Sport and Recreation Centre, Rodney Dowton ferries a boatload of kangaroos through floodwaters near Wellington, Australia. AP

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia's attorney general declared 45 communities along the country's east coast disaster areas Friday, following weeks of drenching rains that have submerged homes, destroyed crops and killed four people.

Despite years of drought, December's heavy rains have brought misery to the region. Thousands of people have been forced to evacuate their homes, and officials have been scrambling to pluck stranded motorists from cars and surround vulnerable homes and businesses with sandbags.

"This was one of the most significant weather events in this state for a lot of years," said South Australian State Emergency Services Assistant Chief

Officer Matthew Maywald.

The relentless weather claimed its fourth victim Thursday. A man in his 50s was found in a car that had been swept into a creek in central Queensland state, police said. He was the third motorist in Queensland to die in the recent flooding after rushing water swept their cars away.

The body of a woman in New South Wales was found in water about 1,600 feet (500 meters) from her abandoned car Tuesday, after police said she tried to walk away when the vehicle stalled on a flooded road.

Attorney General Robert McClelland declared 45 communities in Queensland and New South Wales natural disaster zones, allowing them access to

federal disaster funds.

Four inches (10 centimeters) of rain fell on the southern New South Wales city of Queanbeyan in one night, causing the community's swollen river to overflow and flood the downtown area.

"This has been the most significant flooding in Queanbeyan in 30 years," Emergency Services Minister Steve Whan said.

Some communities were getting relief in the form of drier weather Friday, but meteorologists were predicting continued heavy rain for other areas that could lead to more flash flooding.

The New South Wales State Emergency Service has received nearly 2,300 calls for help in the past two weeks.

China mounts Nobel Prize security clampdown

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese security agents launched a wide-ranging clampdown on dissidents Friday, hours ahead of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to imprisoned democracy activist Liu Xiaobo.

Uniformed and plainclothes officers guarded the entrance to the compound in central Beijing where Liu's wife, Liu Xia, has lived under house arrest since the October announcement that her husband would receive the prize. Officers have guarded her

home since her house arrest, but were out in greater force ahead of the award ceremony.

Guards checked the identities of all who entered, while about a dozen journalists stood just outside the gate. Police cars were positioned on every surrounding corner, and officers patrolled outside the apartment block where the blinds were drawn on Liu's two-story unit.

Liu Xia's phone and Internet connections have been cut off, and friends, family and col-

leagues in the country's embattled dissident community have been placed under house arrest or tight surveillance. Several in the community, including renowned artist Ai Weiwei and human rights lawyer Mo Shaoping, have been barred from leaving the country, apparently out of fear they might attend Friday's award ceremony in Oslo. Others have been removed from Beijing by security agents to keep them out of the loop entirely.

Report: Indian border guards killing with impunity

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's security forces routinely gun down cattle smugglers and other civilians crossing the border with Bangladesh despite scant evidence of any crime, Human Rights Watch said Thursday. The Border Security Force—responsible for guarding against extremists, drug and weapons smugglers and human traffickers—is using its muscle to detain, torture and kill with impunity, according to the 81-page report released by the New York-based rights group. While authorities say the suspects were killed in self-defense or for evading arrest, Human Rights Watch said it "found no evidence in any death it documented that the person was engaged in any activity that would justify such an extreme response."

World

Climate talks intensify; negotiators see progress

CANCUN, Mexico (AP)—Negotiators reported progress Thursday in resolving disputes over proposed final decisions at the U.N. climate conference, setting the stage for agreements on a support fund for poorer nations and other steps to ease the impact of global warming.

Once again this year the annual negotiations under the U.N. climate treaty, which end Friday, won't produce an overarching, legally binding deal to slash emissions of global warming gases. From the start, the talks focused instead on secondary areas, including setting up the "green fund" for developing countries.

But in that and in a half-dozen other areas, as they approached the final gavel, world environment ministers and other delegates still haggled over the wording of texts. Christiana Figueres, U.N. climate chief, nonetheless struck a hopeful note.

"I see a willingness of par-

ties to move positions. I see active and open exchange in the ministerial consultations," she said. "But more needs to be done. I call on all sides to redouble their efforts."

Later Thursday, veteran Brazilian climate envoy Luiz Figueiredo, helping lead a key section of the talks, sounded more positive, echoing the sentiment of other delegates.

"We are engaging heavily with other parties. It is a good signal," he told reporters. "Parties are talking, parties are negotiating on the most difficult issues, so I am very hopeful that we will get to a good outcome tomorrow."

As for a comprehensive deal, the European Union joined with small island states and Costa Rica in proposing that parties commit to taking up a "legally binding instrument" at next year's climate conference in Durban, South Africa.

As some 15,000 delegates, environmentalists, business leaders, journalists and others met at this Caribbean resort, carbon dioxide and other global warming gases, byproducts of industry, vehicles and agriculture, continued to accumulate in the atmosphere, barely abated by modest emission reductions undertaken thus far.

Scientists say temperatures could rise by up to 6.4 degrees Celsius (11.5 degrees Fahrenheit) in this century without deeper cuts, leading to serious damage to coastlines, human health, agriculture and economies in general.

"We all will leave Cancun knowing very clearly that we have not very significantly changed the time window in which the world will be able to address climate change," Achim Steiner, the head of the U.N. Environment Program told reporters.

Mexican police hunt leaders of La Familia cartel

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)—Federal police hunted for top leaders of the La Familia drug cartel in a western Mexican state on Thursday, unleashing narco-blockades and shootouts that have left at least five people dead, including an 8-month-old baby.

Federal police believe that several La Familia members may have been killed, including one of its top leaders, said Alejandro Poire, government spokesman for security issues. He did not say who the leader may have been.

"The way the criminals have tried to protect themselves as they fled from our operations yesterday and today suggests that we have located and are closely pursuing high-level leaders of La Familia Michoa-

cana," Poire said. "Similarly, preliminary unconfirmed information indicates that in their retreat, the organization has suffered significant casualties, including possibly the death of one of their leaders."

The shootout began Wednesday night when federal police investigating a tip about the presence of armed men in Apatzingan in Michoacan state came under fire from La Familia gunmen, Poire said. The gunmen fired on civilian cars and used the sometimes-burning vehicles as barricades.

One of those killed was an 8-month-old baby who was riding in a taxi with his mother, the state attorney general's office said in a statement Wednesday night. The other was the

teenage daughter of a former Apatzingan mayor, state police investigator Luis Mendez told Milenio television Thursday.

The Michoacan Attorney General's Office said that by Thursday evening, the total number of people killed was five, including two federal police officers. Three other officers were injured.

The Public Safety Department statement said a third group of gunmen ambushed another federal police unit trying to come to the aid of their colleagues. The gunmen blocked a highway leading into Apatzingan to prevent the police from advancing.

The blockades continued Thursday morning in Morelia, the picturesque colonial capital of Michoacan state.

WORLD BRIEFS

US threatens sanctions against Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—The United States warned Laurent Gbagbo that he faces punitive sanctions if he continues to refuse to step down following a disputed election that the United Nations says were won by his opponent. The African Union, meanwhile, suspended Ivory Coast's membership on Thursday in the latest sign of growing pressure against the country's former president. Gbagbo has not spoken publicly since his rushed inauguration over the weekend, after he rejected the results released by his country's electoral commission which showed that the opposition leader Alassane Ouattara had won by a nearly 10-point margin. Those results were certified by the United Nations who declared that Ouattara had won by "an irrefutable margin."

Kayaker presumed dead after Congo crocodile attack

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—An acclaimed outdoorsman who wrote movingly about testing himself against nature is presumed dead after a crocodile snatched him from his kayak while he led an American expedition from the source of the White Nile into the heart of Congo. Two Ameri-

cans being guided by 35-year-old South African Hendrik Coetzee on the grueling trip could only watch in horror. They paddled unharmed to safety after the Tuesday morning attack on the Lukuga River in Congo. The International Rescue Committee, which runs development projects in the Central African nation, helped evacuate the Americans to a nearby town, Ciaran Donnelly, the organization's regional director in Congo, said Thursday.

Israel draws international rebuke over settlements

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—The European Union, the United Nations and the Arab League have rebuked Israel after its refusal to halt settlement construction forced Washington to drop efforts to relaunch Mideast peace talks. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday stuck to his position that he won't negotiate without a freeze of Jewish settlement building in the West Bank and east Jerusalem—lands captured by Israel and sought by the Palestinians for their state. He spoke after meeting in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and intelligence chief Omar Suleiman. "Without halt of settlements, there will be no talks," Abbas said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China's top diplomat meets NKorea's Kim Jong Il

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Diplomacy is showing signs of life on the Korean peninsula, two weeks after North Korea shelled its neighbor. China, under intense international pressure, sent a top envoy to meet with Kim Jong Il, and an American governor whose past visits have led to warmer ties announced a new trip to the North. As both Koreas continued to carry out military maneuvers, regional powers balanced shows of support for their allies with attempts to negotiate a detente to avert a further escalation of tensions. Four South Koreans died in the Nov. 23 attack on Yeonpyeong Island, the first to target a civilian area since the Korean War.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, December 11, 2010

Pinoy group begins rehabilitation of Susupe pavilion

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Filipino Community Foundation Inc. has taken on another worthwhile project with the rehabilitation of the pavilion the group built almost two decades ago.

Located next to the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe, the Filipino Community Pavilion was a project by the organization formed in 1978 and was initially called Pilipino Association in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The group then became known as Filipino Community CNMI Inc. in 1988 before it officially became Filipino Community Foundation Inc. in 1997.

The Filipino Community Pavilion rehabilitation project involves putting up a perimeter fencing around the area with entrance and exit gates, including planter boxes.

The project also involves removing the concrete table and benches on the center of the pavilion and replacing them with concrete benches to be constructed around the pavilion perimeter.

Secretary Eddie Caranzo said they opted to remove the concrete table to have more space for those who will use



CLARISSA V. DAVID

First Lady Josie Fitial joins members of the Filipino Community Foundation Inc. during the ceremonial shoveling of the Filipino Community Pavilion Rehabilitation Project last Dec. 6.

the pavilion.

Caranzo said that once the surrounding benches are erected, the center of the pavilion can actually become a stage.

"We decided to rehabilitate the pavilion since our group was responsible for putting it up. After so many years, we feel that it's already about time," said Filipino Community CNMI president Maribel Loste.

Loste and other Filipino Community CNMI members did the ceremonial shoveling on Dec. 6 to signify the beginning of

the rehabilitation project. They were joined on Monday by First Lady Josie Fitial.

Loste told *Saipan Tribune* that the pavilion can be used by the public, regardless of ethnicity or nationality, as long as they conform with regulations set by the Division of Parks and Recreation which maintains all pavilions on island.

"Whether you are Filipino, Chamorro, Chinese, or Korean, you can use the pavilion anytime," she added.

According to Loste, members

of the group have raised the funds to cover the expenses for the rehabilitation project.

Most of the group's members and former members are also members and founders of the Saipan Simbang Gabi Group, she added.

Loste said the group built the pavilion next to the basketball court since Filipino Community Foundation founder Nick Bartido Loste, her father, was instrumental in the construction of the basketball court.

She also said that their group

also financed the restoration of the basketball court last June through the Saipan Marianas Lions Club.

Loste said their target for the completion of the project is at the end of the month.

"We're very excited that finally, the facility and the place will be rehabilitated. The new pavilion will definitely be useful for the community," she added.

Loste extended her apprecia-

tion to all who have made the rehabilitation project, namely: the Governor's Office; Danny and Remy Buniag and family; Wilson and Julie Cunanan; First Lady Josie Fitial; Tony Benavente of Division of Parks and Recreation; Division of Environmental Quality; Department of Public Works; and all members and officers of the Filipino Community Foundation Inc.

Reintegration program for OFWs set on Dec. 19

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Registration for a reintegration program for Filipino workers begins today at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Marianas Business Plaza.

The Reintegration Program for Overseas Filipinos in the CNMI will be hosted by POLO and the Philippine Consulate General in collaboration with Filipino community leaders and volunteers.

The free orientation-seminar seeks to increase the level of awareness on reintegration programs and services for Filipino workers and their families.

"This would also be an op-

portunity to encourage and motivate the OFWs to maximize the gains of overseas employment by saving and investing into productive economic enterprises in the Philippines," said Labor representative Carmelina Velasquez.

Velasquez said the reintegration program is also in line with the 77th anniversary of the Department of Labor in the Philippines last Dec. 8.

Discussion topics include migration realities, financial literacy, savings and investments, and available livelihood and small business opportunities in the Philippines.

Last day for registration is on Dec. 17. For more information, call 235-3411 or 235-6992.

Computer graduates group marks 4th anniversary

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Saipan Building and Fixing Computer Users Group celebrated its fourth anniversary last Dec. 4 at the Aliviera Restaurant in Garapan.

The group, founded in Dec. 8, 2006 by Mar V. Masilungan of White Coconut Computer Services, is composed of some 200 members who have graduated from the Building and Fixing Computer Class.

The 2010 officers of the Saipan Building and Fixing Computer Users Group are chair Angel Deliva; vice chair Zaldy Quebral; secretary Marichu Calañahan; treasurer Marilyn Quebral; auditor Nestor Tumaquip; web admin Jun Florente; and advisers Mar Masilungan, Cris Hilario, Jousel Regilme, Amado Tumbaga, and Edmin Elayda.

"The goal of the group is to supplement what the graduates have learned through the class since there are more skills they can acquire even after the class," Masilungan told *Saipan Tribune*. Masilungan has been teaching



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Building and Fixing Computer Users Group pose for a group photo with Labor representative Carmelina Velasquez and Consul General Medardo Macaraig during their fourth anniversary celebration at Aliviera Restaurant on Dec. 4.

Building and Fixing Computer, one of the classes offered by the Philippine Consulate General through the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

According to Masilungan, the group focuses on different computer-related specializations like Adobe Photoshop.

He said most of these graduates did not really have any information technology or computer background before they took up the class.

Now, about 34 of them have been certified as computer technicians by Masilungan who is a qualified proctor for the licensing exam of the Electronic Technician Association in Indiana.

Masilungan said the graduates have acquired new skills that have proven to be beneficial for them personally as well as their companies. They help their employers cut down their costs since they themselves deal with computer issues in their offices.

"It's a big help for our *kabayans* because the class and the support group open a new opportunity for them. They realize that they can do it. Most of them are my competitors already," he said.

Masilungan added that the Saipan Building and Fixing Computer Users Group also performs community service through preventive maintenance of computers of different learning centers.

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Stay for good, ex-OFW business execs advise

By JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO
OFW JOURNALISM CONSORTIUM

PASIG CITY—Only sixth sense can help overseas Filipino workers succeed in business: common sense.

That's according to Miguel Bolos Jr., a former OFW who now runs a shopping mall and spa after a quarter of a century of working in Saudi Arabia.

Bolos said that sense applies to the OFW's decision to come home and stay home in the Philippines.

For Bolos, the doing began a quarter of a century ago when he worked as a financial comptroller in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. But that length of being away may have also become the death knell for his marriage.

He brushes the latter aside, saying he has moved on.

The sign that he did so was when he spent time managing businesses such as a three-storey shopping mall in his hometown of Guagua, Pampanga, and a spa in Pasay City since returning to the Philippines in 2005.

"[OFWs should] not make the mistake of being an absentee investor because, in all probability, the business will not prosper," Bolos said.

If an OFW wants to succeed in business, it's only "common sense" that he or she stays home for good, he added.

Bolos's advice comes at a time when a strong peso has weakened the value of remittances amid an upswing in local business.

Exporters, even of electronic products, are even unfazed as a weakening greenback further fueled the Philippine peso to



WWW.PERVIL.COM

A former overseas Filipino worker in Saudi Arabia, Teresita Perez-Villanueva manages the family-run Pervil Cosmetics Philippines that produces facial products.

maintain its strength at a two-year high.

In its *Business Optimism Index* released October, Dun & Bradstreet's data revealed exports were up more than 33 percent for the third quarter, similar to the pace in the April-June period.

The D&B BOI, which measures optimism of business leaders and owners, revealed six sectors positive of volume of sales, at over 60 percent of the 260 companies polled. Only those in the construction sector were below 50 percent, as a slowdown in public construction is likely a fourth quarter expectation.

Risks

However, Catholic church-based Scalabrini Migration Center said that for Filipinos thinking of returning home, the time's not now.

"Return migration by OFWs is not viable at this point," the SMC said in its study titled "Re-

alizing Migration and Development in the Philippines."

"It was not realistic to encourage return migration at this time—or until such time that the local economy can offer alternatives to overseas jobs."

"[Coming home for good] is a 'do-or-die' situation."

But former KSA-based nurse Teresita Perez Villanueva said there is no such thing as a "better" time to come home and go into business.

Villanueva, who has been running a cosmetics company since 2002, said risks are always present in business, whether it be in countries like the Philippines or elsewhere.

She cited as example the proliferation of local imitations of her Pervil-brand whitening cream, which angered customers some of who aired their complaints in national television.

Bolos, on the other hand, cited also his problem of lack of tenants after having shelled out P20 million to own a third

of the shares of the P60-million One Crowne Plaza in Guagua in 2007.

Villanueva was unfazed with the flak fake products did to her brand and personally invited the TV host and crew to visit her factory in Cabanatuan City.

She also changed her product's packaging to make it difficult for imitators to copy Pervil.

Bolos, on the other hand, continued to market his space for lease.

Now, the mall has leased all available spaces to mostly local entrepreneurs, including former OFWs.

Still, Bolos said he has yet to generate profit since he continues to pay for monthly debts.

These business-related situations thus become difficult for OFWs to run homeland businesses from abroad, and letting relatives at home handle problems, he added.

Or handle the demand, as Villanueva said what prompted her to quit her job eight years ago and go home.

Different from Bolos, she got the idea to go serious in business when, according to her, a Saudi prince grew a liking to her skin whitening cream and orders swelled.

She said her husband handled the marketing side in the Philippines.

The business growth brought her to a crossroad of whether to come home or not.

'Returns'

The experiences of Bolos and Villanueva only reveal that OFWs still need sound business advice and training, especially if most of them have limited knowledge in starting or growing a business, according to Nueva Ecija-based rural banker Andres Panganiban, Jr.

"Remember, when they come back," Panganiban says, "it is for good."

However, recent studies by the nonprofit Economic Resource Center for Overseas Filipinos (Ercof) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) showed that some Filipinos want to go back to overseas work.

In particular, the studies by Ercof and IOM showed that while many Filipino workers in Malaysia and Italy want to go into business upon their retirement, a visible number surveyed want to continue working overseas "after 'retiring'."

This finding is supported by government data, like the Cebu City-headquartered Philippine Cooperative Central Fund Federation (PCF).

Those who mix up profits of their businesses with daily

family expenses were among OFWs who availed of loans from a government-bankrolled enterprise loan program of the PCF. But after securing credit, they returned to overseas work.

PCF officials said its Livelihood Development Program for OFWs, with funds coming from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), is trying to find out how to bring down the high number of OFW entrepreneurs with past due loans.

Bolos, however, said returning to overseas work is "not a sensible idea."

The entrepreneur must be on top of his or her business, doing the daily grind and personally handling the problems associated with running it, he said.

For Villanueva, it takes patience to grow the business.

She said her business began from a makeshift laboratory near her house in Cabanatuan City.

Slowly, she hired workers. Now, Pervil—a combination of the couple's surnames—is tapping export markets such as the United States, Canada, and some countries in the Middle East.

Dreams of entrepreneurial success, many times aspired by cash-awash OFWs, require a life-changing moment: coming back home to the Philippines, for good, according to Bolos.

OFW Journalism Consortium

Philippines hit on Nobel boycott

» Human rights activists shocked

MANILA, Philippines—Human rights activists and lawmakers were shocked and disappointed at the Philippine government's decision to align with China in boycotting the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony honoring imprisoned Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo.

"The Philippines prides itself on its democratic values, which is why it is shocking to see this government turning its back on Liu Xiaobo's nonviolent struggle for free expression in China," Elaine Pearson, deputy director for Asia of The Human Rights Watch, said in a statement.

Pearson noted that President Benigno Aquino III's mother, the late democracy icon Corazon Aquino, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, the same year she led the peaceful People Power Revolution that ousted Marcos.

The Philippines declined the invitation to attend Friday's ceremony in Oslo, Norway.

Pearson said skipping the ceremony along with 17 other countries, including China's allies such as Venezuela and Cuba, regional neighbors including Vietnam and Kazakhstan, and business partners such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, meant that the Philippines "is failing to live up to its promise to promote

human rights in Asia."

Calling the Department of Foreign Affairs' decision disappointing, Akbayan party-list Rep. Walden Bello said he would write letters of protest to both the DFA and the Chinese Embassy in Manila.

"We protest if the US tries to pressure us. I think we should equally protest when the Chinese do so. We should not let this superpower slap us around," Bello said.

He noted that human rights had been central in the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship and for democracy. "This has been institutionalized," he said.

Caving in

Bello believed that the DFA caved in to China's pressure. "This person is a human rights activist with a great record," he said of Liu. "What the Chinese did was an awful pressure for us not to attend."

The DFA refused to say whether Beijing, a key trading partner, had pressured Manila to stay away from the event.

DFA spokesperson Eduardo Malaya confirmed that no Philippine representative would attend the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony.

Malaya said Manila's envoy to Oslo, Elizabeth Buencuceso, was out of Norway on an official consular mission. "Our ambassador to Norway has a scheduling conflict," he said.

However, two senior government officials who did not want

to be named said the move was meant to appease China, which had repeatedly warned governments around the world that ties would be harmed if they attended the ceremony.

China reacted furiously to the decision by the Nobel committee to award this year's peace prize to Liu, who was jailed for 11 years last December on subversion charges after calling for the reform of one-party communist rule.

"We do not want to further annoy China," said a senior diplomat at the DFA, who asked not to be named.

Avoiding irritant

A Malacañang official said President Aquino "did not want another irritant" in Manila's ties with Beijing.

The Philippines has been working hard to repair diplomatic ties with China following the botched rescue of a bus hijacking in Manila that left eight Hong Kong tourists dead in August.

Chinese Ambassador to Manila Liu Jianchao said China appreciated the "understanding shown by the Philippine government" in joining the boycott of the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony.

"We will say the move of the Philippines indicates the understanding of the Philippine government toward the stand of the Chinese government and people," Liu said in a chance interview at the DFA.

PH opens consular office in DC

WASHINGTON D.C.—Secretary Alberto G. Romulo graced the inauguration of the consular office of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. last Dec. 1.

The Consular Section's new spacious premises will be able to accommodate more conveniently the increasing number of applicants in need of various consular services. In addition to the District of Columbia, the Embassy has consular jurisdiction over the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

The consular office occupies the first floor of the Embassy's old chancery. Located at 1617 Massachusetts Avenue, the edifice was acquired in November 1941 from Mrs. Stella Stapleton, who helped build Father Flanagan's Boys Town in Nebraska. It was in this building where the National Catholic Welfare Conference was first held and many welfare and religious projects were conceived and developed.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photos above show the Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo cutting the ribbon assisted by Ambassador Willy C. Gaa, with Lovely Romulo and Linda Gaa looking on.

The Office of the Resident Commission moved into the four-story building in 1943. When the Philippines achieved independence and became a republic in 1946, the Office of the Resident Commissioner became the Embassy of the Philippines and the building became the chancery. The Embassy later moved across the street in a new modern structure. Through the

efforts of Secretary Romulo, funds were allocated to renovate and again make use of the building.

In attendance at the inauguration rites were representatives from the U.S. State Department, District of Columbia, members of the diplomatic corps, leaders of Filipino organizations and friends from the Filipino community and local media. (PR)

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

NICE GUYS FINISH FIRST

For the first time, PH team wins 'Amazing Race Asia'

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Funny. Richard Hardin and Richard Herrera, winning Philippine contestants on AXN's "The Amazing Race Asia," got lost on their way to the *Inquirer* interview.

However, as they told it, their struggles in the reality game show were no laughing matter.

"We almost got eliminated during the Indonesian leg," recalled Herrera, a model-actor.

But instead of getting disheartened, they got all the more revved up and motivated. "We told ourselves, if we could make it through that round, we had a decent chance of winning," Herrera said.

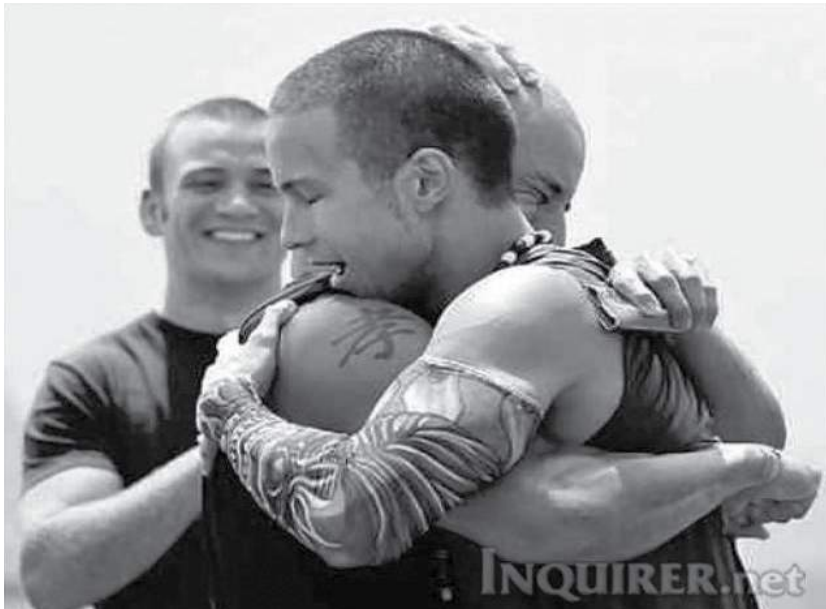
Roller-coaster ride

Win they did, and big. The two Richards, a.k.a. The Riches, are the first Pinoys to top the show's regional edition, now on its fourth season. The finale was aired last night.

It was a roller-coaster ride for the duo. "Sometimes we did well; sometimes, terribly," Herrera recounted.

Hardin, an athlete, often had to overcome his fear of heights. "I was cool with the bungee jump in New Zealand. After that, I could barely walk. I thought I was going to throw up," he said.

They went through what Herrera described as "sick, sadistic challenges." Through it all, they remained solid as a rock.



AXN ASIA

Tearful victory: Richard Herrera (foreground) and Richard Hardin.

Communication

"Rather than fight, we figured things out calmly," said Herrera. "Communication was key. The other teams were always arguing. We quarrelled once. After that, we talked openly about strategies."

Being opposites proved to be an asset. "He's quiet; I'm loud," Hardin admitted. "We balanced each other."

"He's the slow, analytical player; I'm always charging ahead," Herrera said. "Where I was weak, he was strong. And vice versa."

It was Ultimate Frisbee teammate and friend Will Steedman who pushed them to join "The Amazing Race Asia,"

Hardin related. Steedman thought the Riches could be naturals on TV.

The Riches are now looking at a possible regional TV career on AXN. "Anything can happen," said Herrera.

As for the P2 million cash prize?

Herrera said he'd like to save most of it. "I'd bury it under the kitchen floorboards, like the guy in the movie 'Training Day,'" he jested.

Then he turned serious: "I plan to visit my mom and dad in Ohio. They've been watching the show online."

Hardin, for his part, said he would "save, invest and pamper [my] wom-

an." He planned to propose to girlfriend Andrea Barandiaran during the show's big reveal and cast party held yesterday in Singapore.

After he gets hitched, Hardin is setting his sights on being part of the first Pinoy team in the US edition of "Amazing Race."

"I want to retire," Herrera quipped. "But my partner loves this game."

Proudly Pinoy

"If Rich quits, I'd join 'Amazing Race US' with Rovilson Fernandez (another TARA alumnus)," Hardin jested.

Although they are Filipino-Americans, the Riches are proudly Pinoy and often wore tricolor jerseys and native beads (given by the hip-hop dance group Philippine All-Stars) onscreen.

Nice guys finish first.

Kris and Ted 'just friends'

By ALLAN POLICARPIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Following her controversial interview with Ted Failon on "TV Patrol" last December 7, Kris Aquino brushed off speculations that she and Failon are in a romantic relationship. During the press conference for her upcoming horror flick "Dalaw," Aquino said that she and the news anchor were just friends, and that she was just making fun of him during the interview.

"[I just said] Naku, Ted ha, gusto mo talaga akong makatsika. 'Yun lang po 'yon,'" Aquino said.

Further, she said, her siblings had advised her not to entertain suitors until her annulment is final: "Sinabi nila, 'Kung gusto mong mapabilis ang proseso ay mag-behave ka.' So... nagbe-behave ako. I'm not ready."

In what was supposedly a straightforward interview regarding the status of Aquino's annulment case, and her

MMFF entry, "Dalaw," Failon found himself in the hot seat after he asked, "Meron bang dumadalaw sa 'yo ngayon?'" Aquino turned the tables on him and replied, "Ted, baka naman mahimatay ka kung sagutin ko 'yan na ang madalas ko lang kausap, ikaw."

Having rendered the news anchor speechless, she added: "And... 'di ba text mates naman tayo talaga? At 'di ba may dinner tayo in two weeks?'"

And more: "Puwede ba kitang any-ayahan para magtabi kayo ni Noy? Malay mo, maging brother-in-law mo siya in the future?"

Lost for words, Failon tried to redirect the conversation back to Aquino's movie, but failed. "Kris," he said, "doon sa 'Dalaw' na pelikula mo, 'di ba horror 'to? Tinakot mo na kami eh."

Aquino shot back, laughing: "Tinakot kita, Ted. Tinakot ko lahat ng mga taga- 'TV Patrol' sa mga pinagsasasabi ko. Huwag mo ako i-deny, Ted." There you go.

Ruffa Gutierrez was spotted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport arrival area with a gorgeous foreigner. Who's the mystery guy?

"I'd rather not call him a 'mystery guy' because we have nothing to hide," Ruffa clarifies. "We traveled with a group of friends to attend the launch of Lanvin in Hong Kong. It's funny that they took shots of just me and him. I'm no mistress nor am I doing any hanky-panky so it's really no big deal with me to be seen in public with him."

Ruffa says the guy is a Brazilian-Spanish businessman and she'd rather keep his identity private, "because he's not in show biz anyway."

Does her mom Annabelle Rama approve of him? "Mom and Dad have met him," says Ruffa. "They like him but it's too early to say where things would lead. What's important is I'm happy because I can be more of myself with him."

No rift?

Joey Marquez refutes the rumor that he has a rift with John Estrada and Richard Gomez, allegedly because of unsettled money matters after the death of their beloved manager, Douglas Quijano.

But is it true that when Joey was invited to be a guest on TV5's Sunday noontime show "PO5," hosts John and Goma were not too keen about it? "Busy lang kami pare-pareho," explains Joey. "Pero madalas pa rin kami magtawagan. Sa lalim ng pinagsamahan namin, wala nang intrigang maka-

Ruffa: Nothing to hide about 'mystery guy'

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

kasira sa friendship namin."

Loudest whisper

The loudest whisper is that Sarah Geronimo, Anne Curtis and Cristine Reyes are leaving their home network and moving to TV5.

If and when that materializes, the three beauties will be more than just eye candy in the Kapatid network.

Could it be true that because of Viva's boss Vic del Rosario's pivotal role in Willie Revillame's TV comeback via "Willing Willie," ABS-CBN is taking it out on Sarah who happens to be Viva's prized ward?

'Star Confessions'

Cristy Fermin will reveal her soft side on her new show, "Star Confessions" on TV5 (premieres tonight after "Willing Willie").

The pilot episode features the life story of host-dancer Congratulations. Next in line is funnyman Shalala's biography (or should I say BOYography?).

If Cristy's own life story would be made, who would she want to portray her and what would the highlight be? "My choice would be Candy Pang-ilinan," she says. "Gusto ko mag-sentro ito sa buhay ko bilang single mom."

Tanduay's calendar girl

Iya Villania's beauty and brains made



Iya Villania is Tanduy Rhum 5 Years' calendar image model for 2011.

her the perfect choice as Tanduy Rhum 5 Years' calendar image model for 2011. Though Iya has been known to be conservative, shunning offers in the past to pose in various men's magazines, she believed the time was right to show another dimension of herself, not just as an actress but as a person.

Annulment

At first Martin Jickain was hesitant to open up about the annulment of his marriage to Aiko Melendez. But since we are drinking buddies at

Sofra Fort Strip, Martin willingly granted me his first and last interview about the issue.

"It's ironic that our marriage lasted for over a year only," he says. "But the annulment took three years."

Martin recalls that their whirlwind romance began when they met in Boracay. After a few weeks they took the plunge. "It was bound to fail because we got carried away by our emotions," he says. "We weren't thinking straight. But I will always remember Aiko fondly. Our daughter Martina will keep us eternally linked in a special way, even if we both have respective partners already."

So who's the new love of his life? "She's also a chef like me," he beams. "Even if she's younger, we get along well... Funny thing is, A.M. din ang initials niya like Aiko. But I don't want to rush into marriage again. That can wait."

I asked chef Martin: If he, Aiko and his current GF were dishes, what would they be? "Aiko would be dessert because she is super sweet. My GF is like adobo because she's yummy any time of the day," he quips. "And I would be steak because I'm rare."

Blessing in disguise?

The stroke that William Martinez suffered could actually be a blessing in

disguise for him and estranged wife Yayo Aguila.

"When I found out that William was rushed to the ICU, I felt guilty," says Yayo. "Kahit hiwalay na kami, di ko maiwasan mag-worry. In my heart I am still his wife. Sabi nga ng marami baka way ito ni Lord para magkabalikan kami... Ako pa rin nagbabantay kay William. Not because I have to, but I really want to."

Forced to disrobe

A concerned relative of Denise Laurel comes to her defense. "She is not pregnant," her aunt clarifies. "She's in the United States on vacation. Poor Denise!"

Her aunt adds that "Denise was made to show more flesh in 'Kristine,' which she only found out during the show's taping. Even if she's well-endowed, she does not want to project a slutty image. When she didn't want to disrobe some more, 'di na muna binigyan ng project."

3-cornered fight

Did Jake Cuenca and Coco Martin get into a fight during a provincial tour?

The issue is really between Jason Abalos and Jake. Jason happens to be the ex of Jake's current flame, Melissa Ricks. Jake was allegedly irked when he found out that Melissa has been confiding his misadventures to Jason.

Jake was about to punch Jason when Coco intervened; Coco was hit instead and was forced to retaliate.

Maharlika – Opinyon

Still, televise it

The Supreme Court is on a roll—downhill. First, it not only tried to protect one of its own from the charge of having plagiarized/perverted a legal luminary's argument in a case involving comfort women, it tried to persecute the UP professors who exposed it. This time around, it refuses to have the Ampatuan case televised.

The first of course is the worse one, entailing as it does not just the spectacular failure to uphold justice but a resolute attempt to thwart it. But the second, though not as awesomely pernicious, is just as awesomely benighted.

To practice law in the grand manner: That is what lawyers are supposed to do, and justices above all. That is what the “supreme” in the Supreme Court means. The Supreme Court is not there to ascertain facts, it is there to espouse principles. It is not there to provide petty legal resolutions, it is there to offer brilliant legal insights. Its refusal to have the Ampatuan case televised is like its persecution of the UP professors in that all you get from something so high is something so low.

I'm glad this is being arduously opposed by the journalist groups, several senators and P-Noy himself. I'm especially glad that Jinggoy Estrada is doing so—this trial, he says, will impart lessons in something we may not allow to happen again, “we should not let this [the opportunity to televise it] pass”—even if the irony of it is a little lost on him. It was the televising of his father's impeachment

trial that led to his ousting.

I first took up the cry of televising the Ampatuan trial, writing a column on it titled, “Televise it,” immediately after the Ampatuans were arrested for the massacre in Maguindanao last year. The reasons for it were patent.

The first was that it was the only way we could offer the witnesses protection. Though Andal was in jail, the Ampatuans remained powerful in Maguindanao and could easily intimidate them with veiled threats on their families, even if they were known to prefer flagrant to veiled. The image that came to mind was the one in “The Godfather II” where the Corleone family brought the father of someone who was about to testify against them to court, and the sight of him made the witness unravel.

Televising the trial offered some degree of protection. High profile meant high—or at least reasonably higher—security. That reason hasn't become less compelling today. The witnesses need all the attention they can get—or indeed have their faces imprinted on the public mind—to improve their chances of not having any harm befall them anytime soon.

My second reason, and a far more important one, was that like the Erap impeachment trial, the Ampatuan trial stood to give the country a monumental lesson in life. Erap's trial gave a vital lesson on the evils of corruption, the Ampatuan trial would give an even more vital lesson on the evils of murder and mayhem. What made them vital was that we have become a country that has so gotten used to pillage and murder that we have accepted them as a natural part of our lives, even the bishops are no longer shocked by the sight of them. The televising of the trial provides that shock value.

The Erap impeachment trial proved so, and it is a wonder the Supreme Court has so short a memory it cannot remember that. When it was during that trial that its own Chief Justice, Hilario Davide became the most respected Filipino alive, when that trial made law and lawyers respectable again, when that trial made legalese “cool” and everybody started talking like lawyers, prefacing their arguments in beerhouses and other drinking places with “Madame Wetness.”



There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

That reason has not become less compelling today, it has become more so. Particularly with new revelations about the extent of the Ampatuans' reign of terror, as supplied by the New York-based Human Rights Watch. The massacre wasn't the first committed by the Ampatuans, nor, had they not been stopped, would it have been the last.

The “culture of impunity” in this country, driven home by the massacre of 58 people (one body remains missing) in Maguindanao, and the massacre of hundreds of political activists across the country, no less gruesome for happening slowly and methodically, is terrifying—the blitheness with which we have been able to accept it more than the massacres themselves. I don't mind that scenes of the horror in Ma-

guindanao are flashed on TV while people are eating. If that's what it takes to make us recoil from it, enough to discover the preciousness of human life, then I'm all for it.

Just as well, it has become more compelling today because of new revelations from HRW about the previous regime's complicity in the Ampatuans' doings. Though the value of the revelations lies more in the evidence it provides than in the astonishment it induces: We do know that Arroyo worked closely with those murderous thugs. We are not exactly surprised when HRW says: “For two decades the Ampatuans committed atrocities with a ‘private army’ manned by police and soldiers carrying gov-

ernment-supplied weapons. [Their] rise and expansion was aided by the President [Arroyo], who relied on the family for crucial votes and for support in the protracted armed conflict with Moro armed groups in Mindanao.” But we are grateful for the documentation they provide.

The Ampatuans and Arroyo were co-plotters in crime, they can always be co-inmates in jail.

The Erap impeachment trial, which became the most popular TV show in this country, bar none, also became the most educational entertainment or the most entertaining education in this country, bar none. It gave a lesson in democracy—or forget democracy, it gave a lesson in right or wrong—such as we had never seen before. The Ampatuan trial can be so too.

Still, televise it.

EDITORIAL

Better dead than jailed

He may be innocent as he claims to be. But it should be obvious to Sen. Panfilo Lacson, lawmaker and former chief of the Philippine National Police, that he cannot ask for leniency from the law while mocking its authority. But against this rational grain, that is precisely what he is doing. Accused of masterminding the abduction and murder of publicist Salvador “Bubby” Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, he has been on the lam for almost a year now, defying a warrant of arrest. His lawyer, Alex Poblador, himself believes he has no intention of surrendering.

Unheard of for a long time, Lacson confirmed his legal counsel's statement last Wednesday on Facebook: “I will only come out when justice is served or when I'm already dead.... I prefer to suffer in pain but with dignity, sitting alone with my conscience for the rest of my life, rather than do time in jail for a crime I did not commit,” Lacson said, upping the ante. Before this, he was demanding just for the lifting of the warrant and a reinvestigation of his case. It is now quite clear that the fugitive would not only mock the law, he is also demanding no less than outright, summary acquittal (which, to him, is what justice means in this case) even before he submits himself to due process.

This is a completely different tune from the one he was singing when he went into hiding days before a Manila regional court issued a warrant for his arrest on Feb. 5, 2010. He justified his flight from the justice system then, saying he did not expect to get a fair trial during the Arroyo administration. He alleged that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the filing of the double murder case against him to exact political vengeance for his role in the exposés on earth-shaking government scandals implicating Arroyo herself and members of her family.

This cannot justify Lacson's continuing defiance of the law. “Senator Lacson has a standing warrant of arrest and is a fugitive from justice,” Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said. “He knows that his present status does not accord him the privilege of laying down terms with a tenor of finality.”

We agree, and add our voice to the practically universal call for Lacson to submit himself to the legal process—if only to show that the constitutional injunction that “all men are equal before the law” is for real; and one's position in government, no matter how lofty, does not put anyone above the law. By an act of fate—against his wildest nightmares, to be sure—Lacson is in a position to serve a brave and exemplary lesson out of a personal adversity. Will he be man enough to rise to the challenge?

But Lacson would rather be a fugitive. And his stubborn insistence on his own measure of “justice” only serves to reinforce the image people have of him—an image already made worse by the alleged rubout of members of the Kuratong Baleleng kidnap-for-ransom gang in 1995, when he was still the head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force. Respect for the law is something Panfilo Lacson, accuser and now accused, sorely lacks.

The library and the Internet

Our Freedom of Information Act, now pending in Congress, might be stalled yet again in the wake of WikiLeaks. While we are waiting for potentially explosive US Embassy cables from the Philippines to be posted, perhaps we should ask ourselves how Philippine government records are organized. What records are kept? What records are disposed of? What records are open to the public? What records are confidential? Journalists and historians need the Freedom of Information Act to make their work easier, but from my research experience I have realized that the first challenge is locating the source, followed by access to these sources.

There was a time when I always consulted the two-volume Catalogue of Filipiniana by Maxima Ferrer because this was not just a listing of basic materials on the Philippines, it also had a location guide. This work would tell you which libraries had specific titles, thus you did not waste time visiting a library only to be told that they did not have the book. All this is obsolete now because many libraries beginning with the National Library and the major university libraries (e.g., UP and Ateneo) have Online Public Access Catalogues or OPAC facilitating research. As many OPAC can be accessed from anywhere; with an Internet connection you can browse a library collection 24/7. We can even go through the OPAC of major libraries like the US Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. or the Biblioteca Nacional in Madrid from Manila. The Internet has truly made the world a smaller place.

Research is easier now than it was two decades ago, making me wonder why many students have a hard time with research papers. Two decades ago, researching in the British Library meant going through huge heavy scrapbooks with catalogue cards pasted on them. I found a rare book listed, wrote down the call number of a slip, gave it to the librarian and waited. Half an hour later I was told the book couldn't be located so I filled up the form again, handed it in and waited. Same reply, book could not be located. I then asked a reference librarian to check it out and was told, “There was an air raid during the war and some stacks were hit by German bombs, the book you requested was one of the casualties.” I flung my arms in the air and asked why the book was still in the catalogue if it is already gone, then the librarian smiled and replied, “[W]e want you to blame the Germans for the loss.” I can only hope the OPAC is updated and all missing books will be annotated with “Destroyed by German bombing in World War II.”

The problem with OPAC is that we tend to believe everything that comes out of a machine and often forget that the catalogue is only as

good as the material encoded there. In the late 1980s I did research in the Archives of the Spanish Foreign Ministry in Madrid on Germans in the Philippines. As they had a manageable number of bundles on 19th-century Philippine affairs, I went through every one noting down items that were interesting but not in my line of inquiry. Many documents on figures in the Philippine revolution were available especially those who were being monitored by Spanish diplomats in Hong Kong and Japan.

When I returned to the same archives in the 1990s I was shown the OPAC, so I tried to locate the items I saw a decade earlier and couldn't find them. I inquired with an archivist who simply looked at me as if I came from Mars and declared, “[N]o existe!” I told him that I had seen the documents before and brought out my notebook, gave the old location numbers and the “non existent” documents were found. This experience made me realize two things. First, that the OPAC is not foolproof. Second, there might be materials that are not accessible to the public in OPAC but available to the library or archival staff. This gives the director of the research institution the power to restrict or deny access to materials.

There was an old library practice of keeping “preservation copies.” These were books that were considered important and were entombed on a shelf never to be used. If you were lucky, the library had two copies: one for circulation or closed shelf use; the preservation copy was kept elsewhere.

Preservation copies take up precious shelf space. And why keep a book that will never be used? I remember a scholar trying to access a preservation copy. I intervened and told the librarian this book had not been requested in 50 years, and suggested that we sacrifice the preservation copy by making two photocopies for use. I realized then that researchers need

access while librarians and archivists are torn by the need to serve and yet preserve the material entrusted to them.

When I was in college the Filipiniana librarian refused to allow photocopying of Gilda Cordero Fernando's expensive coffee-table books on the grounds that a reproduction would be a form of copyright infringement. I argued that I only needed a few pages for reference and was not reproducing the whole book. The librarian didn't budge. When I met Gilda years later and told her this story, her eyebrows raised and she said, “But that's why I made those books to begin with, they are supposed to be read and consulted!” I'm so glad service in libraries and archives have improved since then, but students now shun books and consult Wikipedia.

Comments are welcome in my Facebook Fan Page.



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

NMC Learning in Communities director Geri Willis presents the advantages of learning communities in helping college students succeed. The mission of the NMC Learning in Communities initiative is to create a supportive and inclusive learning environment that promotes the highest educational, intellectual, and social development of students.

NMC

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday greetings to Brandee A. Mongami! Wishing you the best on your special day. God bless and we love you. Greetings come from your mom, dad, Yoshi and Brett.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Advanced happy birthday to Abram Jacob! May you have a wonderful birthday, and many more birthday wishes to come, my son. Greetings come from your mom and brothers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Dove and Damian on your special day. May God bless you and wishing the best always. Much love from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Gianna Babauta! May you have a fabulous day and enjoy it. We wish you many more wonderful birthdays to come. We love you. Greetings come from your family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated birthday greetings to Jean Indalecio who celebrated her birthday last Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010, at her residence in Dandan Homestead, Saipan. May you have many more birthdays to come. Greetings come from your loving mom Minda, dad Tony and your kids. From left: Dad Tony, Jun, Vicky, mom Minda, Orly, the celebrant, and Alex.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



WEATHERIZATION GRANT

Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola is joined by CNMI Division of Energy officials and staff in presenting Milagro Manglona with the Rota Weatherization Assistance Program formula grant. The grant enabled Manglona to receive an 18 cu. ft. refrigerator, two 6,000 BTU window type air conditioners, and have all of the incandescent light bulbs in her home replaced with compact fluorescent lamps. New smoke alarms were also installed along with the stripping of her door and window.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ROLE MODEL

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and overall PSS Teacher Aide of the Year awardee Herman Villagomez of William S. Reyes Elementary School pose for a souvenir photo during Tuesday's special ceremony on Capital Hill.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



RED CROSS DONATION

Red Cross donates 1,000 hand sanitizers to the Flu WATCH Campaign in hopes to help fight the flu over the holidays. DPH and Red Cross will be giving out some of these hand sanitizers as early Christmas gifts to the first 500 who get their flu shot at the Sabalu Market today! From left to right, Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Roxanne Diaz, John Hirsh, Kung Flu, Warren Villagomez, and Sheena Sablan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Milagro Manglona of Rota smiles as she opens the 18 cu. ft. refrigerator she got as part of the Rota Weatherization Assistance Program formula grant from the CNMI Division of Energy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta meets with Pete Sasamoto of the CNMI Water Task Force.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YoungStyle

Kids go on expensive buying sprees in iPhone games

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Smurfs' Village," a game for the iPhone and other Apple gadgets, was released a month ago and quickly became the highest-grossing application in the iTunes store. Yet it's free to download.

So where does the money come from? Kelly Rummelhart of Gridley, Calif., has part of the answer. Her 4-year-old son was using her iPad to play the game and racked up \$66.88 in charges on her credit card without knowing what he was doing.

Rummelhart had no idea that it was possible to buy things—buy them with real money—inside the game. In this case, her son bought one bushel and 11 buckets of "Smurfberries," tokens that speed up gameplay.

"Really, my biggest concern was them scratching the screen. Never in my wildest dreams did I think they would be charging things on it," the 36-year-old mother said.

She counts herself lucky that her son didn't start tapping on another purchase button, like the "wheelbarrow" of Smurfberries for \$59.99.

Rummelhart joins a number of parents who have been horrified by purchases of Smurfberries and other virtual items in top App Store games. The 17 highest-rated comments on "The Smurfs' Village" in the App Store all complain about the high cost of the Smurfberries, and two commenters call it a "scam."

Apple introduced "in-app purchases" last year, letting developers use the iTunes billing system to sell items and add-ons in their games and applications.

This year, developers have started to use the system in earnest as the main revenue stream for many games. Of the 10 highest-grossing apps in the App Store, six are games that are free to download but allow in-app purchases. Four of those are easy, child-friendly games.



In this photo taken Dec. 7, 2010, Sawyer Rummelhart, 4, points to the "The Smurfs' Village" app on his mothers iPad, at his families home in Gridley, Calif.

Two of them, "Tap Zoo" and "Bakery Story," have buttons for in-app purchases of \$100 in just two taps.

Capcom Entertainment Inc., the publisher of "The Smurfs' Village," says inadvertent purchases by children are "lamentable." When it realized what was happening, it added a warning about the option of in-app purchases to the game's description in the App Store, and it's updating the game to include warnings inside it as well. The game has retreated to being the fourth-highest-grossing app in the App Store.

The warnings may alert parents, but it's doubtful that they'd deter children who can't read and don't understand money. Also, the option to buy \$59.99 worth of Smurfberries at a time remains. Capcom spokesman Michael Larson says "Smurfs" is no different from other games in this regard, and the bulk pur-

chasing option is useful to adult "power players."

It's quite likely that most of the money pulled in by these games comes from addicted adults who want to quickly build their Smurf villages, bakeries, zoos and zombie farms. But there's a loophole in the in-app purchase process that children stick their fingers through.

Usually, the purchases require the owner of the device to enter his or her iTunes password. But there is no password challenge if the owner has entered the password in the last 15 minutes for any reason. That means that if a user enters the password for a purchase or a free app upgrade, then hands the phone or iPad over to a kid, the child will not be stopped by a password prompt.

Capcom and other game publishers have no control over the 15-minute password-free period, which is set by Apple.

Apple defends its system. Spokeswoman Trudy Muller says the password system is adequate and points out that parents can restrict in-app purchases. The parents contacted for the story received refunds from Apple after complaining, and praised the company's responsiveness.

However, there's reason to believe that the password time-out doesn't always work.

Andrew Butterworth of Brooklin, Ontario, was well aware of how in-app purchases work and of the password-free

period. He was careful to let at least 15 minutes pass after a password entry before letting his 5-year-old son play with his iPod Touch. That didn't help, once he'd loaded "The Smurfs' Village."

"He came to me all proud and said he'd figured out a way to get all these Smurfberries," Butterworth says. "And as soon as I saw the Smurfberries, I knew that he'd purchased them using my credit card. I was amazed that he'd figured out a way to do it, because I was sure that he would have needed my password."

He had last entered his password on the iPod four or five hours earlier, he said. His son's

shopping spree cost \$140.

Chris Gropp, another Canadian, said he had not entered his iTunes password the same day his son bought \$67 in Smurfberries, apparently without being asked for the password.

TeamLava LLC, the publisher of "Bakery Story" and "Farm Story," says the games follow all of Apple's rules and restrictions. In either game, it's possible to buy \$99.99 worth of "gems" in one go.

The game publishers and Apple point out that device owners can turn off the option to conduct in-app purchases by going to the Settings app, then hitting the General button, then the Restrictions option. The par-

ents contacted for the story had done so after being alerted to the purchases through their iTunes billing statements.

Apple takes requests for refunds through the computer version of the iTunes program. In the "Store" menu, chose "View my account," then click "Purchase History," then "Report a Problem." Then click on the problem purchase.

Butterworth was pleased with the refund, but still thinks "Smurfs" is a "scam."

"They make it a ridiculously difficult game to play, and you can skip all the difficult parts by spending money," he said. "I believe that they know exactly what's going on."

Students inspired by 'I, Robot' take science prize

By JESSICA GRESKO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—A pair of high school students inspired by the science fiction movie "I, Robot" and another who studied star formation took home \$100,000 grand prizes Monday in a competition honoring the nation's top math and science students.

The Siemens Competition announced the winners of its college scholarships during a ceremony at George Washington University.

Benjamin Clark of Lancaster, Pa., won the top individual prize for his research on binary stars which, unlike the sun, have companions. The 15-year-old plans to major in physics or astrophysics.

Akash Krishnan and Matthew Fernandez of Portland, Ore., won the team prize for their work on speech recogni-

tion technology. They developed a computer algorithm that can detect a speaker's emotion better than current technology and will split the \$100,000 team prize.

Krishnan, 16, and Fernandez, 17, watched "I, Robot," while taking a break from trying to come up with a project idea. The movie featured a robot that could detect when its user was stressed, and they decided to try to improve on the existing technology.

Their algorithm has a 60 percent accuracy rate, compared with about 40 percent for a previous system. They say their work could be used to improve computer automated phone systems, helping, for example, to tell if a caller was becoming irate.

"You could automatically redirect them to a actual human person, so that you could

handle those kind of angry people better," Krishnan said.

The teens are also working to develop a wristwatch-like device that would display colors or happy and sad faces to help autistic children identify and interpret other people's emotions.

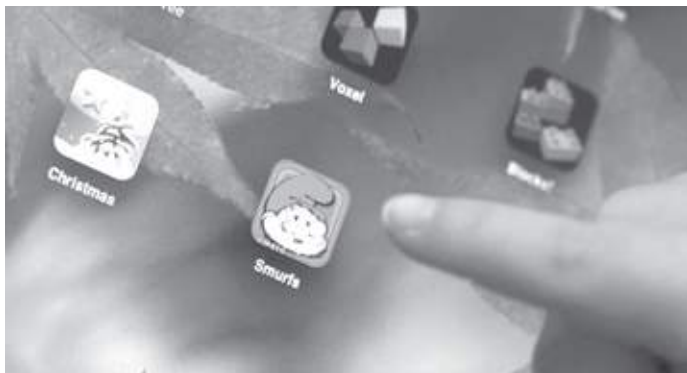
Krishnan plans to study computer science and electrical and mechanical engineering in college, while Fernandez plans to study engineering and computer science.

Six individual students and six teams of students competed in Washington after winning regional competitions in November. They presented their research to a panel of judges Sunday.

"What just blows me away is how advanced they are in their thinking," said Dr. Thomas D. Jones, a former NASA astronaut who headed the judging panel. "Truly these research projects are often at the cutting edge of their field."

ON THE NET

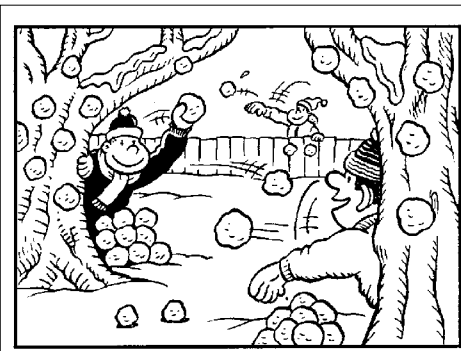
Siemens Foundation:
<http://www.siemens-foundation.org>



In this photo taken Dec. 7, 2010, Kelly Rummelhart and her son, Sawyer, 4, who unwittingly racked up nearly \$70 in purchases on "The Smurfs' Village" game he played on her iPad, are seen in their home in Gridley, Calif.




Akash Krishnan, second from left, and Matthew Fernandez, second from right, both of Oregon Episcopal School in Portland, Ore., pose with Siemens Foundation President Jennifer Harper-Taylor, left, and former NASA astronaut and lead judge Dr. Thomas D. Jones, as they are awarded the team grand prize in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010, at George Washington University in Washington.



WINTER FUN! Don't duck this challenge. See if you can correctly count all of the snowballs pictured above in 15 seconds.

Answer: We counted 38.



Junior Whirl
by Charles Barry Townsend
FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Illustrated by David Coulson

1.	A							E
2.	B							E
3.	C							E
4.	D							E
5.	E							E
6.	F							E
7.	G							E
8.	H							E

Using the definitions and anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

DEFINITION:

1. Harsh and rough in manner.
2. A puritanical person.
3. A soft fabric.
4. To remove the king.
5. A paper container.
6. Popular, unfounded belief.
7. Type of rain spout.
8. A vulnerable computer program.

ANAGRAM:

bias + rave
slue + bone
hems + care
rode + then
pole + even
rook + fell
loge + gray
back + heal

Answers: 1. Abrasive, 2. Bluenose, 3. Cashmere, 4. Delirious, 5. Envelope, 6. Folklore, 7. Gargyle, 8. Hackable.

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CAN YOU FIELD THIS TRACK PROBLEM? Try solving this AlphaMath puzzle before the New Year begins. You must replace the letters on the event board with the digits 0, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest possible total.

Our answer: H=6, O=1, P=0, S=8, U=3, M=5 (610 + 8740 = 9350).

THE "R" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown below, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the R's. Here are some hints from the top down:

1. Movie rating (given).
2. Egyptian sun god.
3. A period of time.
4. Title or name.
5. A loud noise.
6. Less covering.
7. Worked for wages.
8. Delightful; charming.

Answers: The words are: R, Ra, era, Earl, blare, balder, labored, adorable.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was French playwright Albert Guinon who made the following sage observation: "There are people who, instead of listening to what is being said to them, are already listening to what they are going to say themselves."

■ Most people at all familiar with the name Max Schmeling know him as the Great Nazi Hope, the boxer produced by Adolf Hitler in the 1930s to defeat Joe Louis, supposedly proving Aryan superiority. (He did defeat Louis in a match in 1936, though he lost a rematch in 1938.) What most people don't realize, though, is that Schmeling did not subscribe to Hitler's beliefs—he wasn't even a member of the Nazi party. In fact, during World War II, Schmeling risked his life to save two Jewish children.

■ For reasons that are unclear now, the Supreme Court in 1893 declared that a plant eaten during a main course was a vegetable and one eaten afterward was a fruit.

■ What do King Henry VIII, science-fiction author H.G. Wells, English naturalist Charles Darwin, American author Edgar Allan Poe and composer Sergey Rachmaninoff have in common? They all married their cousins.

■ The 1958 film "Gigi," starring Leslie Caron and Maurice Chevalier, has the distinction of having the shortest title of any film to win the Academy Award for Best Picture.

■ The home of sitting U.S. presidents, the White House, didn't become widely known as the White House until 1902, during Theodore Roosevelt's term in office. The building was originally called the President's Palace, but the word "palace" was deemed to be too royal-sounding, so the name was changed to the Executive Mansion.

MAGIC MAZE

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN — ?

W C A P M U R T A N A V I T Y
W U R P N L K J H E H K J N Y
E P O H B O B C T D X C O U E
F B D B Z X I V O I T O H H R
Y E R G L R A E M R R R N N G
Q N O M Y K I M C Y S D H E E
H B F D D B O Z R L Y I U L N
W L D V T T R Q U L O K R E A
N U K C U D Y S I A D L T H Z
B E K O O C U T S S K I H F C
D N O R M A N L E A R C A Z X

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Ben Blue	Daisy Duck	Kid Rock	Tom Cruise
Bob Hope	Earl Grey	Norman Lear	Tom Mix
Buddy Rich	Helen Hunt	Sally Ride	Zane Grey
Chris Rock	John Hurt	Stu Cook	

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GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	—		x		15
+		x		—	
	x		÷		21
x		—		x	
	+		+		13
15		24		8	

1 2 3 4 4 6 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN — ?

Answers: The words are: R, Ra, era, Earl, blare, balder, labored, adorable.

GO FIGURE ANSWER

					15
8	24				
13	8	+	4	+	1
x		—		x	
21	2	÷	7	x	9
	—		x	+	
15	3	x	4	—	6

Love thy neighbor? Not these dogs

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My German shepherd, "Sandy," is a sweet-tempered dog who has a loud bark but is not aggressive at all. She will lie down once a visitor comes in and stop barking without my telling her to. However, every morning she goes over to a hole in our fence and waits until the neighbor's dog is let out to play. Then, she'll growl and bark like mad. The other dog will do the same, rushing up to the hole and snarling at Sandy. I'm afraid if they see each other in the street, they'll fight. What can I do?—Jane T. in Dothan, Ala.

DEAR JANE: Is your neighbor aware of the situation? What's his or her take? If you haven't talked about the dogs' behavior with them yet, do so. Don't issue any ultimatums, just say, "Have you noticed our dogs growl at each other through the fence? Does it worry you?"

The easiest short-term solution, after talking to the neighbors, is to fix the hole in the fence. This might stop the territorial barking and growling, although neighbor dogs tend to bark at each other despite fences they can't see through.

If your neighbors agree, arrange a "play date" to see how your dogs act when they're in the same space to-



gether. Both should be on a leash and controlled by their owner. If they show any aggression like snarling or lunging, separate them immediately. A fight could make the aggression worse. Your dog and the neighbors' dog may be relegated to barking at each other through a fence that doesn't allow them to see each other, in order to keep the peace.

Looking for more pet advice and information? Check out pawscorner.com online! Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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Showcase greeting cards in a holiday scrapbook

Now that the first white advent candle is lit on our fresh pine wreath, strings of shimmering mini lights frame our kitchen window, and a flurry of Christmas cards outnumbers the junk mail in our mailbox, I can genuinely sing, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ..."

Those holiday cards in multicolored envelopes arrive from a hodgepodge of senders, from new business associates to old friends and relatives living in far-flung places. Receiving personalized pieces of mail feels like an old-fashioned gesture in this digital age, and that is why I appreciate them more and more. While sending holiday greetings via e-mail is "green," and certainly a thrifty



I glued our family Christmas photo card on the cover, and attached a large envelope for storing "annual holiday letters" on the inside of the back cover.

I set aside the first two pages for invitations to Christmas parties, open houses in the neighborhood and ticket stubs from concerts and plays.

During the holidays, I leave our in-process "coffee table book" out for all ages to thumb through at their leisure. They don't miss a page. Plus, it's a great conversation starter as we talk about memories of old friends or share details of their new adventures.

Now lined up in a neat row in our bookcase with a bit of space left for a new 2010 edition, six bulging scrapbooks have become family holiday reference books that we find ourselves reading over and over.

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

UK's Charles and Camilla attacked by protesters

LONDON (AP)—Prince Charles in his tuxedo looks anxiously ahead as a protester's fist pounds on his car. His wife Camilla's mouth gapes in shock above her emerald dress.

These are the dramatic images captured by an Associated Press photographer as student protesters vented their anger on the most elite, and supposedly well-protected, of targets—a car containing the heir to the British throne and his consort, the Duchess of Cornwall.

The couple were heading to a theater for a charity variety performance Thursday when their Rolls Royce crossed paths with a volatile gang of demonstrators who attacked the vehicle with fists, boots and bottles—and chanted “Off with their heads!”

Young, excited and angry, the protesters had broken off from a large student rally and were running through London's West End, bent on spreading mayhem among the throngs of pre-Christmas shoppers.

They broke a Starbucks win-



Britain's Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, react as their car is attacked by angry protesters in London, Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010.

dow, overturned a couple of postcard stands—but seemed as surprised as the royals were when they came face to face.

Adnan Nazir, a 23-year-old podiatrist who was following the protesters, was among the first to recognize the royal couple in their customized Rolls Royce with its extra-large windows. “I said, ‘It's Camilla!’ I wasn't trying to alert them. I was just surprised to see her,” he said. “A few people turned around and started hitting the windows. People started kicking the car.”

The attackers, up to 20 of them, surrounded the limousine and pounded it with fists and bottles, smashing a window, and splashed the gleaming car with paint amid chants of “Off with their heads” and “Tory scum.”

The car behind, an official royal Jaguar, also came under attack.

In the confusion, Nazir said, a window opened. Charles kept his calm, gently pushing his wife toward the floor to get her out of the line of fire.

“Charles got her on the

floor and put his hands on her,” Nazir said.

The 62-year-old prince remained calm, “waving and giving the thumbs up.”

“It was just a surreal thing,” Nazir said. “It was completely manic.”

After several chaotic minutes, the car managed to force its way through the crowd and drive off.

Charles' office, Clarence House, said the couple was unharmed. But Camilla, 63, looked shaken and Charles was somber as the couple arrived at the London Palladium a few minutes after the attack.

Ever the professionals, they soon managed smiles as they met performers including Kylie Minogue and the boy band Take That.

Prime Minister David Cameron called the attack “shocking and regrettable”—and police will have to answer questions about a security breach that brought an angry mob within touching distance of the future king and his wife.

Doors' Jim Morrison pardoned for indecent exposure

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Forty years after Jim Morrison was convicted of exposing himself at a wild Miami concert, this is the end: Florida's Clemency Board, egged on by departing Gov. Charlie Crist, pardoned The Doors' long-dead singer Thursday.

Some people who were at the Miami show March 1, 1969, insist even today that he exposed himself, though others in the audience and Morrison's bandmates contend he was just teasing the crowd and only pretended to do the deed. Crist, tuned in to the controversy by a Doors fan, said there was enough doubt about what happened at the Dinner Key Auditorium to justify a pardon.

The board, which consists of Crist and a three-member Cabinet, voted unanimously to pardon Morrison on indecent exposure and profanity

charges as they granted several other pardons Thursday. At the hearing, the governor called the convictions a “blot” on the record of an accomplished artist for “something he may or may not have done.”

He said Morrison died before he was afforded the chance to present his appeal, so Crist was doing that for him. Board members pointed out several times that they couldn't retry the case but that the pardon forgave Morrison and negated his sentence.

“In this case the guilt or innocence is

in God's hands, not ours,” Crist said.

Morrison had received a six-month jail sentence—never served—and a \$500 fine for the 1970 convictions, which carried consequences for the band. Ray Manzarek, The Doors' keyboard player, said Miami was supposed to be the start of a 20-city tour, but every venue canceled after Morrison's arrest.

“We had the mandate of heaven, and I think at that moment, he lost the mandate of heaven,” Manzarek said. “In the recording studio, the magic stayed, but I think at that moment in Miami, the live performance magic left for a little while and then came back intermittently.”

Morrison's appeals were never resolved. He was found dead in a Paris bathtub in 1971 at age 27. No official cause of death was ever issued—his manager said he died of “natural causes.”



Morrison

Actor Snipes begins serving sentence at Pa. prison

LEWIS RUN, Pa. (AP)—Actor Wesley Snipes began serving a three-year sentence at a federal prison in Pennsylvania on Thursday for failure to file income tax returns. Snipes, 48, arrived shortly before noon at the Federal Correctional Institution McKean in the tiny northwestern Pennsylvania town of Lewis Run, federal prisons spokesman Ed Ross said. He had been ordered to surrender by noon.

The minimum security prison camp is worlds away from the harsh prison fortresses depicted in the Snipes' films “Undisputed” and “Brooklyn's Finest.” The minimum-security camp doesn't have fences around its perimeter.

The 300 nonviolent inmates live in barracks that feature two-man rooms, daily showers and double-feature movie showings Friday through Sunday. Alas, no NC-17, R or X ratings allowed, which knocks out much of Snipes' action-heavy repertoire.

The most jarring aspect of the celebrity's stay might be the five daily head counts, three during the overnight hours. And Snipes, who earned a reported \$13 million for the “Blade: Trinity” sequel, will have to adjust to earning just pennies an hour handling kitchen, laundry or other campus chores. He can spend just \$290 a month at the prison commissary.



Snipes

Snipes has appeared in dozens of studio films, from “White Men Can't Jump” and “Demolition Man” in the early 1990s to the blockbuster Blade trilogy.

None of which will score him any points at McKean, officials insist.

“We recognize that he is high profile, but we treat all our inmates the same,” spokeswoman Shirley White told The Associated Press last week.

According to U.S. prosecutors, the actor failed to file any tax returns for at least a decade, and owed \$2.7 million in taxes on \$13.8 million in income from 1999 to 2001 alone.

Snipes, a dues-paying member of a tax-protest group that challenges the government's right to collect taxes, described himself at his 2008 sentencing as a naive truth-seeker.

“I am an idealistic, naive, passionate, truth-seeking, spiritually motivated artist, unschooled in the science of law and finance,” said Snipes, who had pursued theater and dance from an early age, attending the vaunted High School for the Performing Arts in New York City.

Tuesday night, he told CNN's “Larry King Live” that he was not nervous about reporting to prison.

Trove of JFK photos sold at auction in NYC



This photo provided by Bonhams auction house, by former White House photographer Cecil Stoughton, shows Marilyn Monroe with President John F. Kennedy, center, and Robert Kennedy, left, at a Democratic fundraiser on May 19, 1962 at a home in New York City.

(AP)—A trove of John F. Kennedy pictures by White House photographer Cecil Stoughton, including a rare image of Marilyn Monroe with the president and Robert Kennedy at a Democratic fundraiser, fetched \$151,000 at auction Thursday.

The Monroe photograph, contained in an envelope labeled “Sensitive Material—May 19, 1962” with 22 other gelatin silver prints of the event, sold for \$9,150, above its presale estimate of \$4,000 to \$6,000.

“It's the only image of the three of them together,” said Matthew Haley, Bonhams' expert for books, manuscripts and historical photographs. “There are very few prints of this photo.”

The collection was offered by Stoughton's estate at Bonhams auction house. It included 12,000 photographs, and was estimated to bring \$200,000.

Stoughton was the first official White

House photographer. He captured public as well as intimate Kennedy moments. About 60 percent of the images are of public events. The rest are of private moments: the children's birthday parties, family Christmases, and vacations in Hyannis Port, Mass.

One of Stoughton's most famous images shows Lyndon B. Johnson being sworn in aboard Air Force One following Kennedy's assassination Nov. 22, 1963. The photo shows Johnson with his hand raised taking the oath of office surrounded by his wife and Jacqueline Kennedy still wearing her blood-splattered dress. It sold for \$13,420, above its presale estimate of \$5,000 to \$7,000.

“It is one of the most iconic images of the 20th century,” said Haley.

Johnson signed it: “To Cecil Stoughton, with high regards and appreciation, Lyndon B. Johnson.”

Designer dead at NYC hotel, composer's son grilled

NEW YORK (AP)—A fashion designer was found dead Thursday in an overflowing bathtub in a swank hotel room, and her boyfriend—the son of an Academy Award-winning songwriter—was being questioned by police, a law enforcement official said.

Sylvie Cachay, 33, was found in a Soho House room after police received a call from the Manhattan hotel at about 3 a.m., police said. Water had been leaking from a ceiling, and hotel staff went to the floor above, where they found Cachay, dressed in a thin black sweater and underwear, submerged face

up in the 6 1/2-foot oval tub.

Cachay's boyfriend, Nicholas Brooks, the 24-year-old son of "You Light Up My Life" songwriter Joseph Brooks, was seen leaving the hotel earlier and returned at about 3:30 a.m. to find police there, the law enforcement official said. In an unrelated case, the father is fighting charges that accuse him of molesting would-be actresses in his Manhattan apartment.

The official wasn't authorized to speak publicly about a person not arrested for a crime and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Prescription drugs were found

in the hotel room, but the pills were in the bottle, and the woman had some small red marks on her neck, police said. The room was not in disarray, and no illegal drugs were found.

The medical examiner's office said an autopsy was completed Thursday but needed further study. Chief police spokesman Paul Browne said investigators were awaiting results. Police also were combing security camera footage from the hotel.

The younger Brooks, who was unemployed, had not been charged with any crime. Police said he had been speaking to investigators without an attorney.

Cachay had been dating Brooks for around six months, said her friend and former publicist, who didn't know their relationship well and said she didn't think the designer had a drug or alcohol problem.

Cachay, who didn't live with Brooks and may have checked into the hotel after a fire in her West Village apartment, created a women's swimsuit collection called Sylva using high-end fabrics and bright, bold patterns and colors. The suits retailed for \$200 to \$400 each, but she lost her backing and had to fold after the economy collapsed, according to her former publicist Kate Godici.

Comics reporter Brenda Starr leaving the biz

CHICAGO (AP)—No more late nights or looming deadlines for globetrotting reporter Brenda Starr.

The redheaded comic heroine, whose first appearance came in a June 1940 Chicago Tribune insert, is putting the notebook away for good next month. Tribune Media Services, which owns Brenda Starr, announced Thursday that it's ending the feature's newspaper syndication.

Chicago Tribune columnist Mary Schmich and artist June Brigman said they've decided it was time to end their work on the seven-day-a-week strip which appears in about three dozen newspapers. The final episode of the soap opera cartoon created by the late Dale Messick will be published Jan. 2.



In this February 1998 file photo, Dale Messick, creator of the red-headed comic heroine "Brenda Starr," poses for a photograph at her home in Oakmont, Calif.

"It's been an incredible privilege to be able to live life through this medium all these

years," said Schmich, who has written the comic for 25 years. "I'm a reporter, above all, so I

always use Brenda in a funny way to report things."

When Brenda, who works for The Flash, went to India or Mount Everest on an adventure, Schmich studied as much as she could about those places. The strip was also a way to comment on the changing industry—like with the Internet star character of Rat Sludge, a thinly-veiled caricature of Matt Drudge—and the roles of working women.

The cartoon is a rarity in the world of comics, with a strong female lead role and a female-dominated creative team, originating in a time when the workplace wasn't as friendly to women. Messick was a New York greeting-card artist who changed her name from Dalia in the 1940s so her work would be better noticed.

Time isn't right for two best friends to become a couple

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a 23-year-old woman and my best friend is a guy, "Trevor." After hearing him call me "Sweetie" and say he's smitten with me and crazy about me, I mustered up the courage to talk with him about taking our friendship to the next level—dating. Trevor responded that his emotions are in a "blender" right now and that he doesn't want to deal with them. He said he doesn't want to make promises in the future he can't keep. He also said he loves me and wants to continue to be best friends.



Dear Abby

I know in my heart that it would be beautiful if Trevor just gave us a chance. I'm ready to date him. In fact, we already act like a couple. My friends say I should give up on him, but isn't a solid relationship built on a strong base of friendship? Should we remain best friends?

MAD ABOUT HIM IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR MAD ABOUT HIM: The answer to both your questions is yes. However, best friends are free to date others—and that seems to be what Trevor would prefer right now: no commitments. Loving someone and being in love with someone are not the same. And while Trevor's emotions are "in a blender," he is clear that he wants his freedom. You have my sympathy.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for almost a year and am the mother of two daughters. I am dating two very nice men, and I have been open and honest with both of them about not wanting a serious relationship right now. They both understand. The problem is my sister seems to feel that I need to make a commitment to one of them because if I don't, I will be viewed as a "player." She hasn't spoken to me in weeks because of this "issue."

Is it wrong of me to date more than one man at a time even if I am absolutely honest with them about it? I am not ready to settle down, and I enjoy dating both of them. How do I handle this with my sister?

NOT PLAYING FOR KEEPS

DEAR NOT PLAYING FOR KEEPS: The way to "handle" her is to ignore the silence and not allow her to push your buttons. By giving you the silent treatment, your sister is attempting to control your life. You are an adult, and you should not allow your sister—however well-meaning she may be—to pressure you.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Today I witnessed two incidents of apparently well-meaning parents swatting their small children's behinds—in public, no less. I cannot believe in these enlightened times this is still considered acceptable by otherwise intelligent people.

As an elementary school teacher, I can tell which children have been subjected to physical discipline at home. They seem more fearful and angry and are more likely to hit another child because children learn through mimicry. In school or in public, a child who swats another child is liable to be lectured on bullying, sued or even arrested. Hitting someone other than your own child is called "assault" in legal terms.

Any degree of swatting may seem effective because it gets the child's attention in the moment, but in the long run, it is counterproductive.

I believe all high schools should offer mandatory child-rearing classes for both genders to break this harmful cycle, and to teach more effective forms of discipline.

ANY CHILD'S TEACHER

DEAR ANY CHILD'S TEACHER: I agree with you 100 percent!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Shock jock Howard Stern re-ups at Sirius XM Radio

NEW YORK (AP)—After all his threats to leave, and others' speculation on where he might go, Howard Stern is staying put at Sirius XM. The loose-lipped shock jock announced on his show Thursday that he has signed a new five-year contract with the satellite radio company. The deal, which runs through the end of 2015, provides that Sirius XM can now transmit Stern's show to mobile devices. No other terms will be disclosed, the company said. Stern had been locked for months in stormy negotiations as his original five-year contract with Sirius radio, worth a breath-taking \$500 million, neared its expiration just days from now. Sirius and then-rival XM radio merged in 2008.

Mass. court to decide repayment for comedian Cook

WOBURN, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts court has scheduled a hearing Friday to consider how much comedian Dane Cook's sister-in-law will have to pay the entertainer under a \$12 million restitution order. Cook's half brother Darryl McCauley and McCauley's wife Erika were ordered to pay restitution after pleading guilty to stealing mil-

lions of dollars from Cook. The Wilmington couple were accused of embezzling when Darryl McCauley was working as Cook's business manager. Both husband and wife received prison sentences. A spokesman for Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley said the hearing in Middlesex Superior Court in Woburn may determine what Erika McCauley will have to pay.

It's a boy for former 'Ugly Betty' star Newton

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's a boy for actress Becki Newton. A spokeswoman for the former "Ugly Betty" star says Newton and her husband welcomed their first child, a baby boy, last month in Los Angeles. Publicist Ruth Bernstein says it's the first child for the couple, who wed in 2005. Us magazine first reported the birth Thursday. Newton, 32, can next be seen in the NBC series "Love Bites," which premieres in January.

Injury forces Van Dyke to cancel LA production

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An injury has forced Dick Van Dyke to cancel his new musical show in Los Angeles. Gefen Playhouse publicist Allison Rawlings released a statement Thursday that says Van Dyke is unable to perform because of

an injury to his Achilles tendon, which began bothering him last week. As a result, the theater was forced to cancel the upcoming run of "Dick Van Dyke - Step in Time: A Musical Memoir." Van Dyke, who turns 85 on Monday, performed in the preview show Wednesday night, but Rawlings says he aggravated the injury. In the statement, Van Dyke said the injury is forcing him to be off his feet for awhile and thanked everyone for their understanding and support. The show, a career-retrospective, was scheduled to run through Jan. 16.

Former Miss Arizona gets prison for kidnap plot

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—A former beauty queen and University of Arizona law school student accused of orchestrating the kidnapping and torturing of her ex-boyfriend is going to prison. Pima County prosecutors say 28-year-old Kumari Fulbright was sentenced Thursday to two years in prison and six years' probation. She pleaded guilty last year to conspiracy to commit kidnapping and aggravated assault as part of a plea agreement that stipulated the prison sentence. The Arizona Daily Star says it was up to a judge to decide how long Fulbright would be on probation after

she's released. Fulbright and three men were arrested in December 2007 after the ex-boyfriend told police he'd been tied up and kept captive for eight to 10 hours, robbed and tortured. Fulbright competed in the Miss Arizona contest and was named Miss Pima County in 2005 and Miss Desert Sun in 2006.

Cameron Crowe, Nancy Wilson finalize divorce in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There's no more music between rocker Nancy Wilson and director Cameron Crowe—the couple have finalized their divorce. Court records in Los Angeles show a judge signed off on the couple's breakup Wednesday. The Heart singer-guitarist and Academy Award-winning writer-director resolved their split without fanfare, using a retired judge as a mediator to end their 24-year marriage. Wilson filed for divorce in September. The couple have twin 10-year-old sons. Crowe, director of films such as "Jerry Maguire" and "Say Anything," won an Oscar for the screenplay for "Almost Famous." Wilson worked on the soundtracks of several of Crowe's film, and had a cameo in "Fast Times at Ridgemont High," which he wrote. The couple have been separated since June 2008.

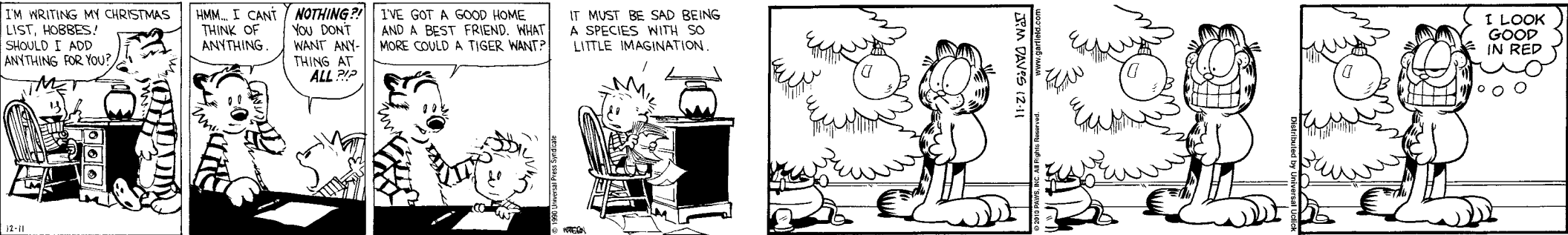
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

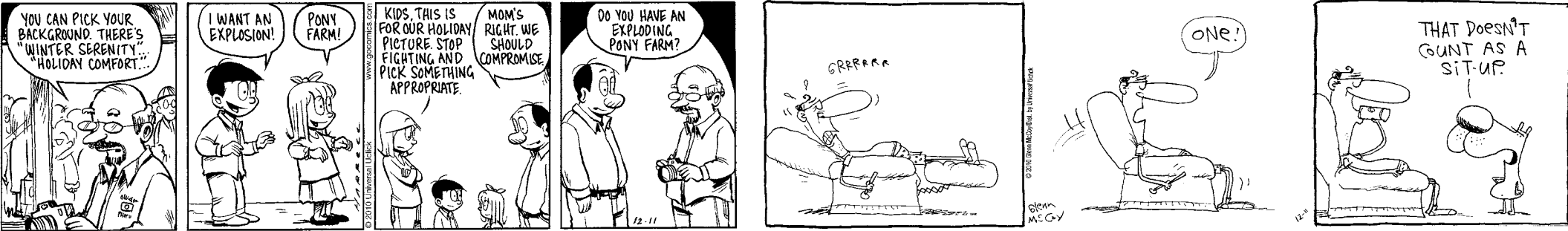


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Doc counter-part

6 Put

12 Big name in cosmetics and hair care

13 Niche

14 Bearlike

15 Erse

16 The Bee —

17 Throat clearer

19 Wapiti

20 Waiter's handout

22 Fool

24 Scepter topper

27 Gossip

29 Pub trayful

32 1967 Audrey Hepburn movie

35 Basin accessory

36 Hit Fox series

37 Method

38 Big Apple letters

40 "Cogito, — sum"

42 Brooch

44 Juno's

46 Couch

50 "I, Robot" writer

52 Din

54 Actress Danes

55 Long reclining seat

56 "The Miracle Worker" subject

57 Hounds' prey

4 Author Fleming

5 Bulk of the house-work

6 Senate staffer

7 Andean beast

8 Expert

9 Deli salad

10 Beelzebub's specialty

11 Floor, afloat?

12 Schlep

18 Paul Newman movie, with "The"

21 School's URL ending

23 Blue

24 Have debts

25 Uncooked

26 In even-numbered years, maybe

28 One way up in the rankings

30 Mound stat

31 The air up there

33 Take a whack at

34 Journey segment

39 Task

41 Academy Award

42 Prepare for a trip

43 Capri, e.g.

45 Incessantly

47 Tom Joad, for one

48 Parker who played Daniel Boone

49 Corroded

51 Wire measure

53 "Eureka!"

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterdays answer 12-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mo'Nique, 43; Gary Dourdin, 44; Jermaine Jackson, 56; Bess Armstrong, 57

Happy Birthday: Too much, too fast will be your downfall. Gauge what you can and cannot do and stick to a conservative game plan. You will learn quickly and must apply the information you gather immediately to whatever project or plan you are working toward. Kindness will be appreciated and will bring you beneficial returns. Your numbers are 6, 15, 19, 26, 39, 41, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Strive for security and be cautious of anyone who pries. Expect someone to try to bully you and be ready to walk away if you don't like what's being said or the direction in which a conversation is heading. Protect your assets and your reputation. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Planning a trip that will bring you closer to old friends and family should be in the works. A chance to spend time with someone you find mentally stimulating will spark your imagination, enabling you to come up with a profitable idea. Love is in the stars. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put your money into a good, safe, solid investment. Taking care of property or buying and selling something of value will turn out well. Getting together with someone in order to cut your overhead makes good sense and should be considered. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A job interview or something you apply for looks promising. Don't sell yourself

short; dig in and learn what you need to know. Changes at home look positive and will bring about a new way of living that suits your Crab-like nature. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put time, effort and money into your surroundings, home and family. You may face opposition from someone you love if you don't include him or her in your plans. Don't overspend on costly trips or luxury items. Keep things simple. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get together with old friends, lovers or relatives you don't get to see often. It's time to revisit old ideas and plans. Socialize, take on a challenge or do a little networking and you will make worthwhile connections. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may feel weighed down by the responsibilities threatening you or your position. Quiet time that allows you to consider different ways to handle what you face will pay off. Believe in yourself and your abilities. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get back to your roots and reconnect with people you found interesting in the past. A move may be necessary to follow a dream you have yet to fulfill. Think outside the box. Romance is in the stars. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Discipline and hard work will be needed. A change at home will catch you by surprise and make you rethink the strategy you were planning to use. Take a serious look at what it will cost you to walk away from a bad situation. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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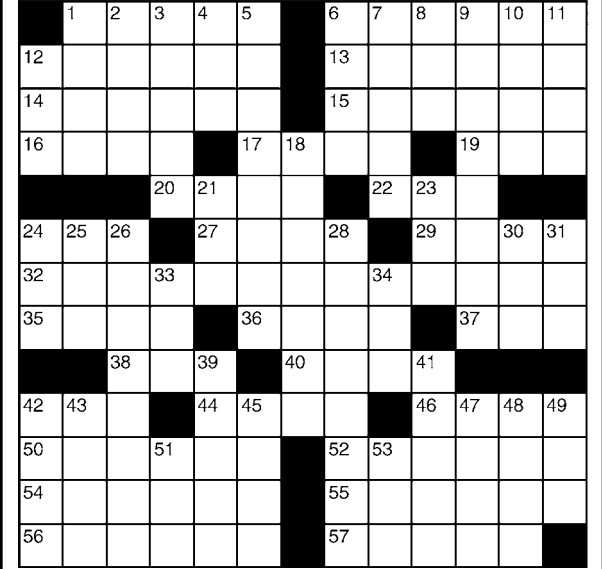
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be the leader. Mixing business with pleasure will bring you in contact with someone who can contribute to your world. Don't let someone from your past lead you astray or convince you to do something that will get you in trouble. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Concentrate on stabilizing your financial future. An innovative idea can turn into a moneymaking prospect if you start off small. Participate in a charitable event. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you can imagine it, you can make it happen. You will be inspired by the people around you. An interesting proposal will capture your interest and get you thinking about forming a group that can undertake such a venture. A romantic evening should be planned. ***

Birthday Baby: You show great determination in pursuing your goals. You are steadfast, relentless and entrepreneurial.

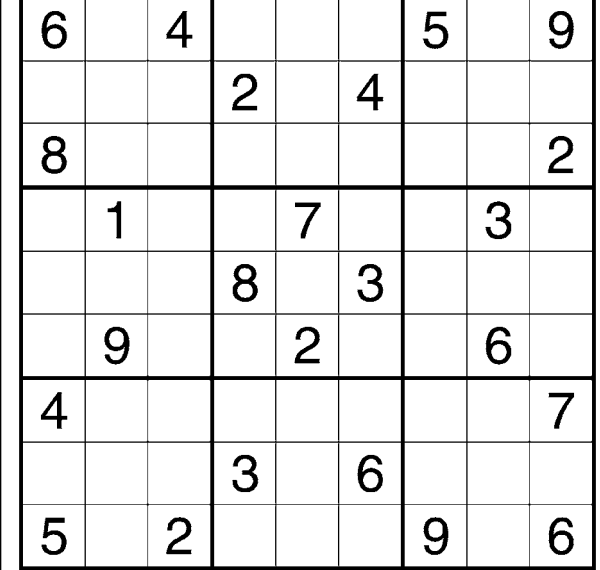
Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 12/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	1	6	2	4	5	3	7	8
8	7	3	1	6	9	5	4	2
5	4	2	3	7	8	9	1	6
6	3	7	5	2	1	4	8	9
4	8	9	6	3	7	1	2	5
2	5	1	8	9	4	7	6	3
1	2	5	4	8	3	6	9	7
7	6	4	9	5	2	8	3	1
3	9	8	7	1	6	2	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 12/10

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SNOWPLOW Solution: 8 letters

M M E L T K C U R T W T D Y D
Y O A H E A V Y S A E F A A R
A U T R D T R D R E E I O W I
W N T O E D N R R L R L R N V
L T A I R A E G E A V C U E
I E C A H N W N M N T C I R R
A D H V T O A P O P A P A C S
R P M Y L M O I R R I I A A E
E R E B R W S E E T S U N D T
M E N O E S V D N E E D Q R A
O S T R E E A O H K X R A E G
V S F F R E S L W C C P D D L
A U O S R A T E T A T A E A I
L R E P E W S A R L I B R A
P E S S E N I S U B Y D H G T

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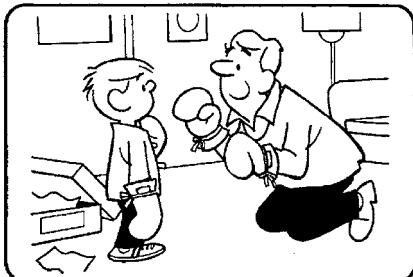
Adapter, Angle, Area, Attachment, Back, Blade, Blower, Bracket, Business, Care, Clear, Drivers, Easy, Equipment, Expert, Gear, Grader, Hand, Hard, Heavy, Hitch, Lift, Melt, Motor, Mounted, Paid, Powerful, Pressure, Professional, Railway, Raise, Rate, Removal, Reverse, Road, Runway, Salt, Sand, Season, Service, Spreader, Storm, Sweeper, Tailgate, Truck, Warranty

Yesterday's Answer: Covered

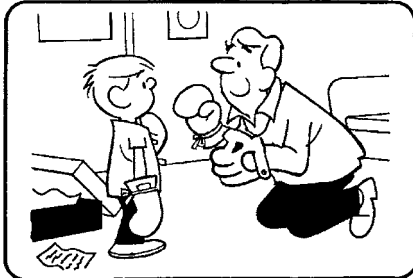
The New Treasury can be ordered by sending check money order for \$10.95 each, plus \$3.75 postage and handling each (\$14.70 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume. \$1.50 plus for each additional volume. © Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 8130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64114 or call toll free, 1-800-642-6482. Order online at uclick.com. (Contains 130 puzzles, 33 of which are the larger 20 x 20 version)

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTONOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



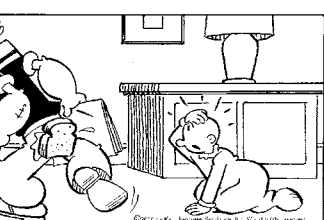
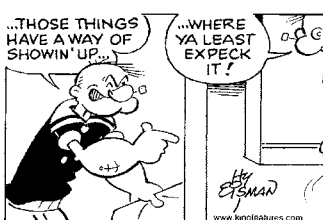
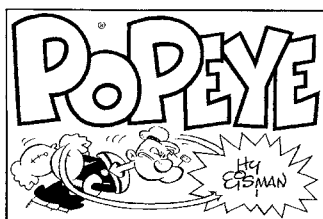
Differences: 1. Man has a baseball glove. 2. Lamp is missing. 3. Box is black. 4. Paper has writing on it. 5. Boy has short sleeves. 6. Boy's shoes are plain.

Wishing Well®

6	7	8	2	8	7	2	4	2	8	2	4	3
C	F	P	N	R	O	O	D	W	I	C	O	S
5	4	3	2	8	5	4	6	3	4	2	6	4
B	N	K	O	D	E	O	A	I	T	N	U	B
6	7	4	2	5	3	2	7	8	7	5	2	6
T	R	E	T	C	P	E	G	E	I	H	N	I
4	2	4	5	2	5	8	6	2	4	8	5	7
A	T	Q	E	E	E	O	O	D	U	F	R	V
4	8	7	8	3	8	5	4	7	5	8	4	5
I	C	E	H	N	I	F	T	E	U	L	T	L
6	7	8	4	3	7	6	4	3	6	3	8	3
N	N	D	E	O	E	A	R	T	D	H	R	I
8	3	6	7	3	6	8	7	6	7	6	7	6
E	N	V	M	G	I	N	I	S	E	E	S	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

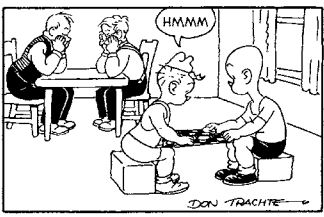
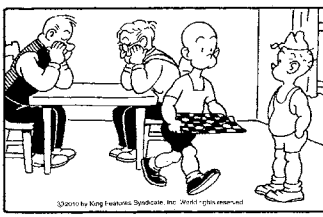
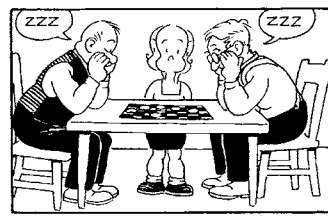
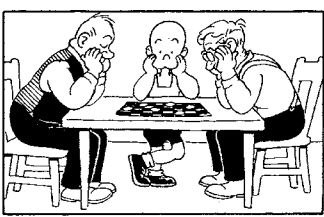
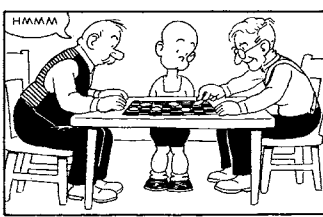
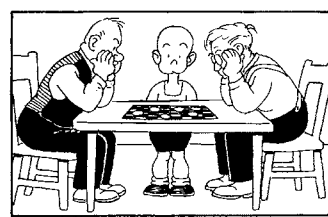
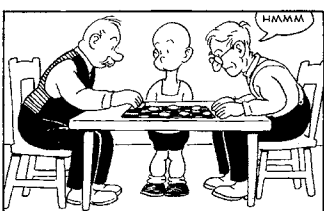
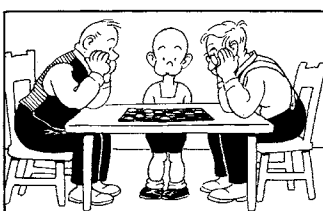
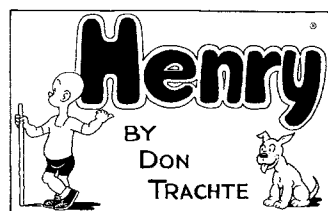
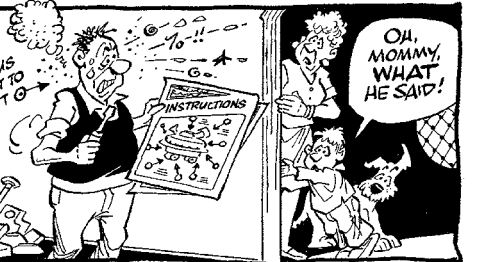
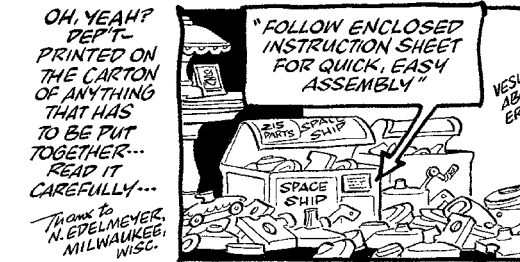
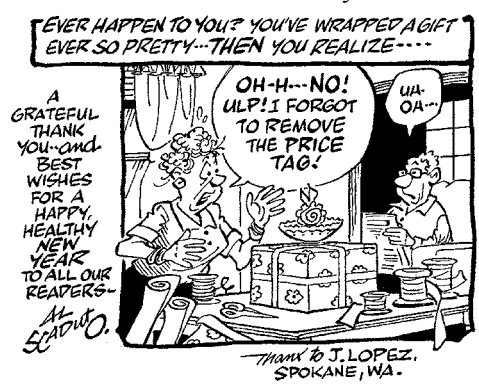
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They'll Do It Every Time



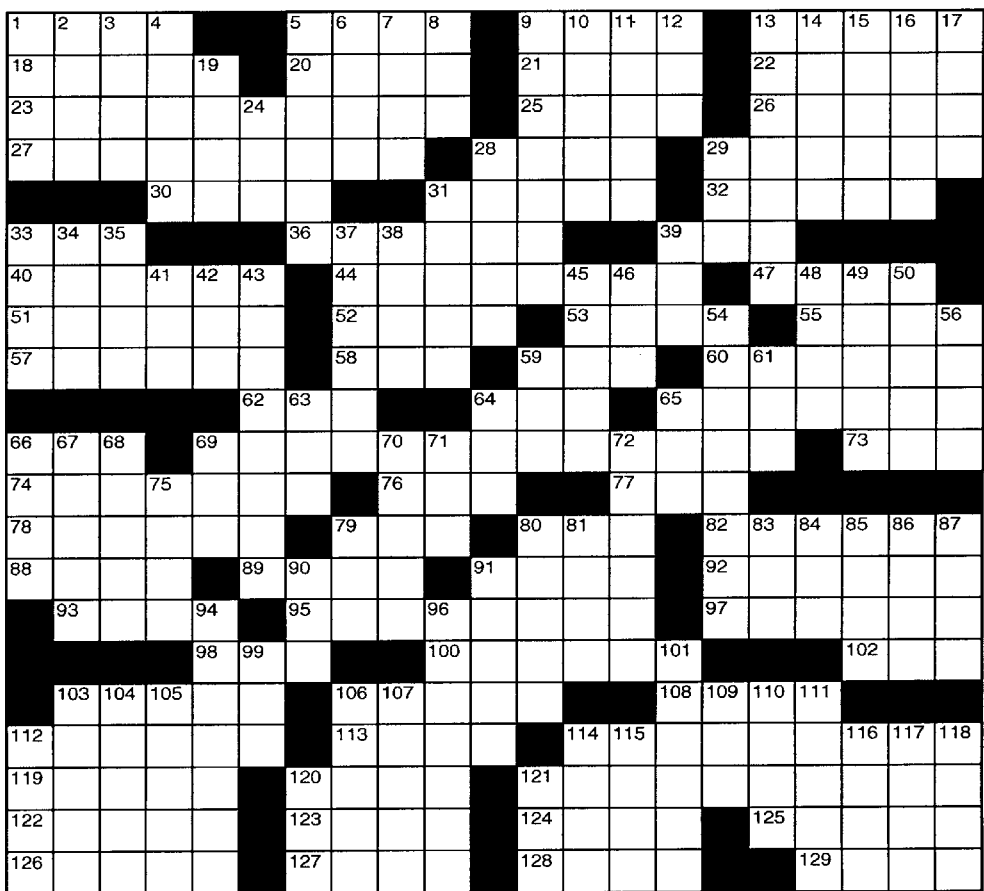
by Al Scaduto



Super Crossword

EMOTIONAL STATES

- ACROSS**
- 1 Zhivago's love
5 Touch up the text
9 It should be square
13 "Don't — it!"
18 Act like Etna
20 Birdbrain
21 Garfield's pal
22 Fragrance
23 Tennessee cry of denial?
25 "— Shuffle" ("77 song)
26 Long walks
27 Pleasant
28 Jeroboam contents
29 Way up
30 Vend
31 Get — (be successful)
32 Mikita and Musial
33 Find the sum
36 Spring holiday
27 Pleasant
39 TV's "— Sharkey"
40 Mature
44 North Carolina cry of encouragement?
47 Seizes suddenly
51 Join the leisure class?
52 Item for 37 Down
- 53 Live on lettuce
55 Coasted
57 Texas cry of sympathy?
58 Feel wretched
59 Writer Rand
60 Second
62 EMT's skill
64 Everything
65 Dickens character
66 Yak
69 Pennsylvania cry of disgust?
73 — Moines, IA
74 He'll bend over backward for you
76 Grazing ground
77 Permit
78 Witch doctor
79 Hoopsters' org.
80 Exec's deg.
82 Utah cry of revulsion?
88 Chihuahua dough
89 Chihuahua snack
91 Italian port
92 Dwell
93 "Scat!"
95 Illinois cry of surprise?
97 Sampras
- and Rafter
98 Weeding tool
100 Duration
102 Chemical suffix
103 Buy off
106 See
129 Across
108 Orient
112 Uproar
113 Mr. Diamond
114 Least liberal
119 Gravel-voiced
120 Thailand, formerly
121 Michigan cry of chagrin?
122 Senator Kefauver
123 Cultural grp.
124 Nautical adverb
125 Concluded
126 Hackneyed
127 Big man on campus
128 Cunning
129 With 106 Across, legendary drummer
- on Barbie or Ken
7 Unemployed
8 Sock part
9 "Le Misanthrope" playwright
10 Minneapolis suburb
11 Helped
12 Composer Delibes
13 Massachusetts cry of contempt?
14 Author Jong
15 Symbol
16 Forebodings
17 "Boss"
Tweed's nemesis
19 What you used to be
24 Actor Kilmer
28 Baby basset
29 Egyptian viper
31 Playwright Fugard
33 Taj town
34 Sleuth Nancy
35 Kids connect them
37 Jockey giant
38 Darjeeling dress
39 Revolutionary Guevara
41 Drollery
42 Psychic
- Geller
43 Inclination
45 Tennyson tale
46 — rummy
48 About
49 Bank deposit?
50 Burn a bit
54 Quiet
56 Colors
59 Maugham's "Cakes and —"
61 Pro-gun grp.
63 Saucepan
64 Drillers' org.
65 TV's "Murder, — Wrote"
66 Huff and puff
67 Feels sore
68 Impertinent
69 Cops' org.
70 — grease
71 Indeed
72 Grievance
75 "Typee" sequel
79 Sgt. or cpl.
80 — Carta
81 Improve oneself, in a way
83 Turn right
84 DDE's predecessor
85 Tiny coin
86 Genesis setting
87 Hawaii's state bird
90 Veneration
91 Freeway
- sounds
94 Idaho cry of excitement?
96 Jack of "The Odd Couple"
99 Poetic preposition
101 "Hiroshima" author
103 Good time
104 Dread-locked one
105 Set in motion
106 Kevin of "In & Out"
107 Range rope
109 Actress Meyers
110 Seafood selection
111 Accent feature
112 Mus. directive
114 — con-tendere
115 Summit
116 "The Never-Ending Story" author
117 WWII gun
118 "The — Is High" ('80 hit)
120 Crestfallen
121 LummoX



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5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president born in a hospital?
6. GEOGRAPHY: Where would one find the popular tourist spot called "Vieux Carre"?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of a creature is a gibbon?
8. ASTRONOMY: Rhea is a moon of which planet?
9. TELEVISION: Which comedians were famous for the "Who's on First?" vaudeville routine?
10. MOVIES: In "The Silence of the Lambs," what was Hannibal the Cannibal's last name?

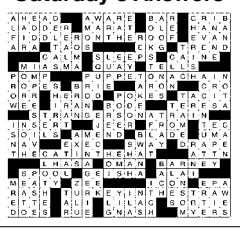
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1. MEASUREMENTS: What is the measurement of time called?
2. SCIENCE: What kind of metal is bauxite used to create?
3. GAMES: Which is the strongest hand in a poker game?
4. HISTORY: Who killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel?

10. Lecter
9. Abbott and Costello
8. Saturn
7. Ape
6. New Orleans (The French Quarter)

5. Jimmy Carter
4. Aaron Burr
3. Royal flush
2. Aluminum
1. Chronometry

Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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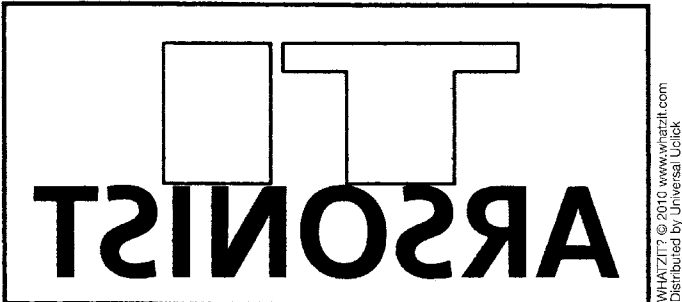
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Late model RAV 4.
Low mileage-ready to pay in cash.
Call 287-6512

WHATZIT Solution:
Put it on the back burner

CLICK IT OR TICKET
NIGHT AND DAY

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Gensel/
24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi &
ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA
applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/
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Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.
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Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Garage Sale
December 11, 2010 • 8am - 12pm
Tagan Tagan Drive
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follow signs

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2007 Toyota Corolla, mileage
43,000. Excellent condition.
Price \$8,900.00. Call 287-7676

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Manning throws for 319, Colts beat Titans



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Peyton Manning wants people to quit worrying about him. He's just fine, thank you very much.

Manning threw for 319 yards and two touchdowns, and the Indianapolis Colts snapped their three-game skid by beating the Tennessee Titans 30-28 on Thursday night to stay just a half-game back in the AFC South.

"Nobody likes losing three in a row," Manning said. "That's new for us. Somebody asked me if we were in a slump. I said, 'I've been on an 8 1/2-year hitting streak.'"

The four-time NFL MVP put his atypical slump behind him with a crisp performance against a defense that hasn't intercepted a pass in 14 straight quarters, beating the Titans for a fourth straight time. He completed 25 of 35 passes in his 63rd 300-yard game, tying Dan Marino for tops on the career list.

Back in the state where he starred at the University of Tennessee, Manning nearly had a third touchdown pass but rookie receiver Blair White broke up a pass intended for Reggie Wayne in the end zone.

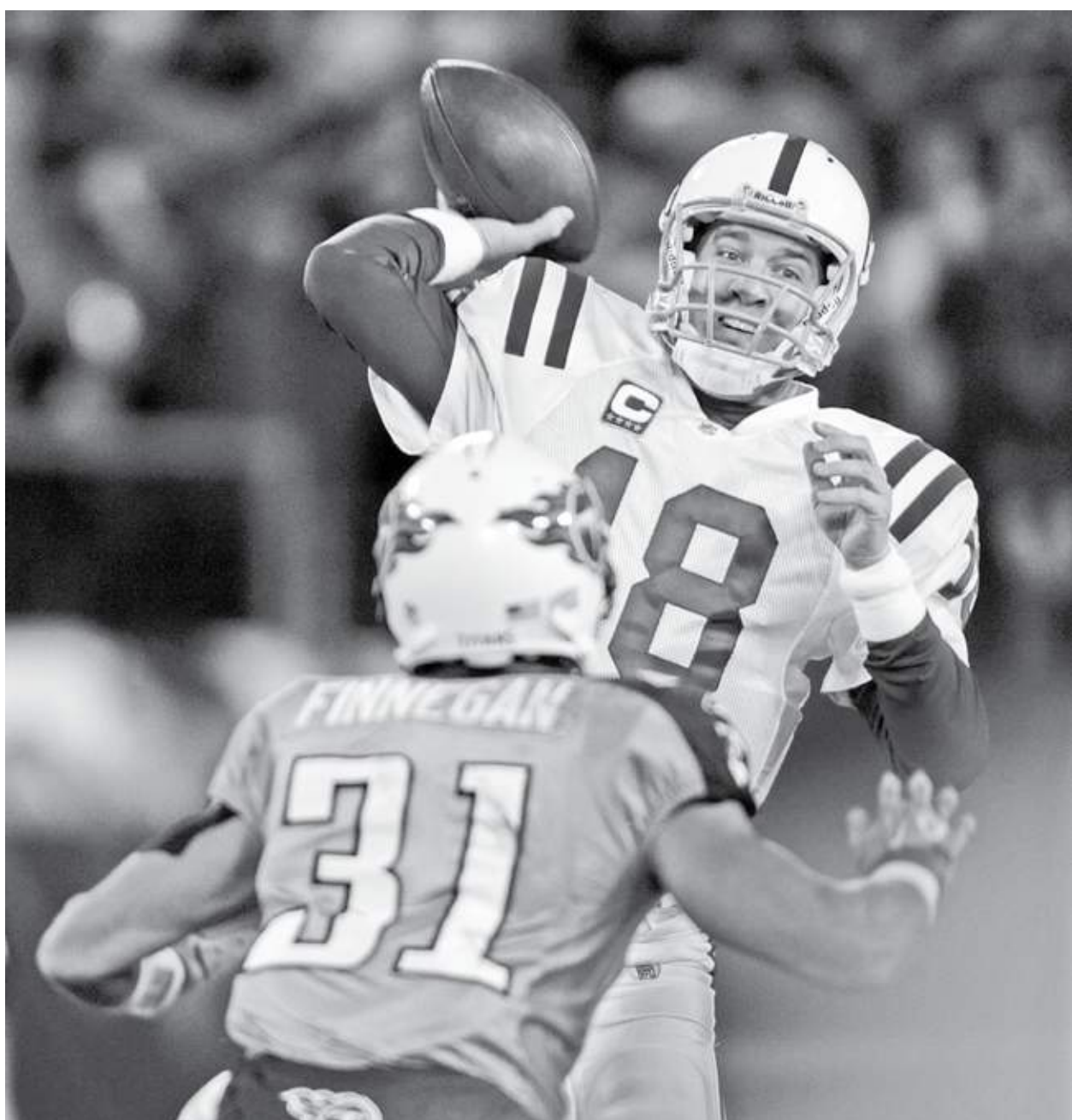
"I was throwing to Reggie. I can assure you I was throwing to Reggie," Manning said. "But like I said, that's part of the learning process."

The Colts (7-6) haven't lost four straight since 2001 when their five-game slide prompted Jim Mora's famous rant about the playoffs. Now the only NFL team to reach the postseason in 10 of the last 11 seasons is back on track and will defend its AFC South title if it wins out.

"I think we're in a four-game playoffs, and this was a playoff game to-night," Manning said.

Tennessee (5-8) has lost six straight to drop 2 1/2 games behind Jacksonville in the division with three to play. The Titans can blame themselves for mistakes that led to each of the Colts' first three touchdowns, including two defensive penalties on third-and-goal and a high snap over the punter's head.

"Every time we play the Colts, it's



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) passes as he is pressured by Tennessee Titans cornerback Cortland Finnegan (31) in the first quarter of an NFL football game, Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010, in Nashville, Tenn. AP

been the same thing," safety Chris Hope said. "By the time we figure out we can play with them and compete with them, we run out of time. It's been the same story the last few times we've played them."

One fan showed up wearing a grocery bag over his head with "Jeff Fisher: A

commitment to mediocrity" written on it, referring to the Titans coach.

The Titans did break out of their scoring slump, ending a 14-quarter drought without an offensive touchdown when Chris Johnson finished off a 55-yard drive with a 1-yard run with 49 seconds left in the first half. Johnson

finished with 111 yards rushing.

Tennessee closed to 27-21 when Kerry Collins tossed his second TD pass of the night, a 4-yarder to Bo Scaife with 7:59 left in the game. The defense forced the Colts to go three-and-out, and the momentum seemed to swing to the Titans for the first time.

But Tennessee couldn't pick up a first down, and fans booed when Fisher sent out the punting unit on fourth-and-1.

Manning made the Titans pay with a slant to Pierre Garcon, who shook off Jason McCourty and Hope while safety Michael Griffin whiffed as the receiver slipped up the right sideline for a 43-yard play. Adam Vinatieri ended the drive with his third field goal, a 47-yarder that made it 30-21 with 2:55 left.

"Peyton was Peyton. I'm sure he felt good about his performance, and certainly we did as well," Colts coach Jim Caldwell said.

Injury-riddled Indianapolis finished the game with just five healthy offensive linemen, making the win even more precious.

"It's tough to do in this league," Caldwell said. "It feels good, particularly our guys had to fight through some injuries."

The Titans used up every second trying to rally. Collins found Scaife again for a 2-yard TD pass as time expired.

"It was good," Fisher said. "It just happened too late."

Collins finished with 244 yards passing and three TDs, giving him 200 for his career.

But it was Manning who really got back on track, putting the Colts up 21-7 at halftime with TD passes of 1 and 19 yards to Garcon after tossing a career-worst 11 interceptions during Indianapolis' slide. The first TD pass was his 25th on the year, becoming the first quarterback to reach the mark in 13 consecutive seasons.

Javaris James also scored on a 1-yard plunge, his NFL rookie-best sixth rushing touchdown of the season.

Tennessee started Kenny Britt for the first time since he strained his right hamstring on Halloween, sitting Randy Moss. Collins connected with Britt twice for 23 yards. But Collins tossed a screen to Britt to open the second quarter, and Dwight Freeney hit him, knocking the ball loose. Tyjuan Hagler recovered the ball at the sideline for the Colts.

Moss finished the game without a reception.

Red Sox get Crawford, Yankees raise offer to Lee



LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.

(AP)—Immediately after the Red Sox landed Carl Crawford, the Yankees boosted their already whopping offer to Cliff Lee. Their high-stakes rivalry is escalating, hundreds of millions of dollars by the hour.

The other teams in the majors? They can only marvel at Big Boys Gone Wild.

"I've never played in those poker games," Arizona Diamondbacks general manager Kevin Towers said Thursday. "It's a different pool of players we focus on and look at. I hear about it and kind of move on."

Crawford got \$142 million from Boston. New York dangled \$140 million in front of Lee, for starters.

Too bad for Andy MacPhail, Baltimore's president of baseball operations. His Orioles play in the same AL East as those top spenders.

"I want to form the Mid-Atlantic Division," he said, totally kidding.

Not everyone is out of the mix, though.

The Texas Rangers, eager to re-sign Lee, went to his home in Arkansas and presented a proposal. They didn't publicly disclose what it was worth.

"We made an offer with substantial additional commitments in years and dollars," Rangers owner Chuck Greenberg said. "It was a very constructive conversation."

Still no timetable when the prize pitcher might make a decision on where to play in 2011.

"He's a premier free agent," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "He's worth waiting for."

The winter meetings wrapped up Thursday after a brisk session full of trades and signings. The Baltimore Orioles made one more deal before leaving the Disney resort, getting shortstop J.J. Hardy from Minnesota.

Typically, several trades follow in the days after teams return home. Kansas City will certainly get pitches for former Cy Young winner Zack

Greinke, and the New York Mets have been listening to offers for outfielder Carlos Beltran.

In the biggest shifts of the week, Crawford and Adrian Gonzalez joined the Red Sox, Jayson Werth went to Washington, Carlos Pena moved to the Chicago Cubs and Paul Konerko stayed with the White Sox. Derek Jeter, meanwhile, completed his deal with the Yankees and admitted he was angry with how the team handled talks.

Mark Reynolds, J.J. Putz, Shaun Marcum, Jeff Francoeur and Melky Cabrera also found new places to play. The Tampa Bay Rays, a playoff team last season, didn't fare so well—as expected, the cost of doing business cost them Crawford and Pena, and shortstop Jason Bartlett might get traded to San Diego, too.

Boston general manager Theo Epstein wouldn't directly confirm Crawford's seven-year deal.

"If things come together the way we hope and expect, we'll be really satisfied," he said.

Predictably, the Yankees quickly raised the ante for their No. 1 target, offering Lee a seven-year contract. That's up from their original six-year proposal—no telling how much higher than \$140 million they went.

A person familiar with the Crawford deal told The Associated Press that his agreement was subject to passing a physical. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was not yet complete.

"You go into every winter with a Plan A, and sometimes it's hard to pull that off and you move on to Plan B and C," Epstein said. "I think adding an impact player was very important for where we were in the short-, medium- and long-term and adding two, as long as they were the right players in the right spots in the right situations, would be even better."

A person with knowledge of the negotiations told the AP about the increased offer to Lee, without disclosing the dollar amount. The person spoke on condition of anonymity be-

cause the talks are ongoing.

The speedy Crawford is a four-time All-Star and just won his first Gold Glove. He hit .307 with 19 home runs, an AL-leading 13 triples and 90 RBIs for Tampa Bay last season. He scored 110 runs and stole 47 bases.

A dynamic player at 29, he has spent his entire major league career with the Rays. He is the franchise leader in several categories, including hits, RBIs, runs and steals.

Gonzalez, an All-Star slugger and Gold Glove first baseman, came in a trade with the Padres.

"We did this objectively over months and months and months," Epstein said. "We realized there was a shot if things came together the right way, we could be pretty aggressive on a couple players we really liked."

The Yankees never made an offer to Crawford, even though Cashman had dinner with him Tuesday night.

"It's a great player. A great move," Cashman said. "They've had two huge acquisitions. They're loading up like they always do, and this is even more significant than a typical Red Sox reload. So they've done a great job so far."

Miller has 22 points, Blazers beat Magic



PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Andre Miller returned from a one-game suspension to score 22 points and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Orlando Magic 97-83 on Thursday night to extend their winning streak to three games.

Wesley Matthews had 20 points for the Blazers, who trailed by 14 points in the first half but led by 15 points in the second. Portland's modest winning streak comes after six straight losses.

Dwight Howard had a season-high 39 points in the loss, the Magic's third straight. The team had been hampered by a nasty stomach ailment that hit Howard, Jameer Nelson, J.J. Redick and Mickael Pietrus, but all of them were healthy against the Blazers—including Nelson, who sat out the last three games.

Howard added 15 rebounds.

Miller rejoined the team after sitting out a 106-99 victory Tuesday night over Phoenix because of an NBA-imposed suspension. Miller was disciplined for making "excessive and unnecessary contact" with Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin in a game Sunday.

The suspension snapped Miller's consecutive games streak at 632, the longest among active NBA players. He hadn't missed a game since Jan. 24, 2003.

Miller told reporters Wednesday the suspension wasn't justified. He says it showed that the league favors younger players and was without consideration for his accomplishment.

A fan at the game held a sign that read: "Don't mess with Andre!"

Howard had 18 points in the first quarter to help the Magic take a 22-14 lead.

The Magic stretched the margin to 14 points before the Blazers started to close the gap, cutting it to 40-34 on LaMarcus Aldridge's dunk.

Matthew's 3-pointer pulled the Blazers to 44-43, but Howard quieted the crowd with a dunk and Orlando led 46-45 at the half. Howard had 26 points at the break.

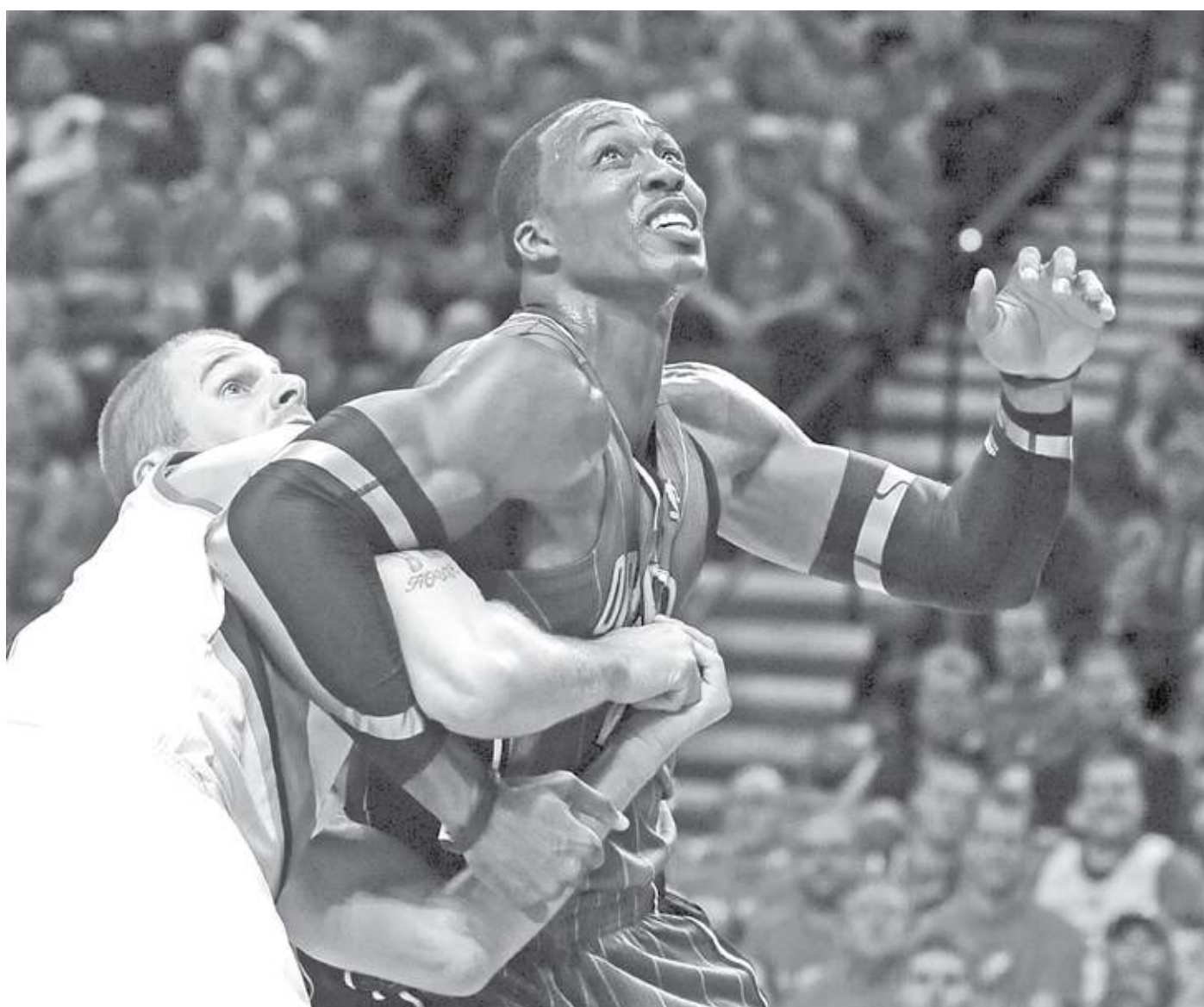
Portland pulled in front 49-48 on Marcus Camby's layup early in the second half. Portland pushed the lead to 63-56 and started the fourth quarter with a 67-62 advantage.

Rudy Fernandez's 3-pointer gave the Blazers a 75-64 edge, and Portland cruised the rest of the way. Miller's jumper made it 88-73.

The Magic were hurt by the poor shooting of Nelson, who was 4 of 14 from the field, and Vince Carter, who was 2 of 12.

Celtics 102, Sixers 101

At Philadelphia, Kevin Garnett banked in a shot off an alley-



Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard (12) battles for position under the basket with Portland Trail Blazers center Joel Przybilla (10) during the first quarter of the game at the Rose Garden on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010, in Portland, Ore.

Clippers dogged by injuries, inexperience

LOS ANGELES (AP)—More than a month into the season, the injury-riddled Los Angeles Clippers have just five wins and one of the NBA's most inexperienced lineups.

The good news is they have Blake Griffin, who is building a strong case for the rookie of the year award with dunks that have become regular YouTube highlights. Griffin and second-year pro Eric Gordon have carried the Clippers, making the future seem more promising than the present.

Three of the team's wins have come against Oklahoma City, New Orleans and Western Conference-leading San Antonio. The other two were against Sacramento, a team with the third-worst record in the league.

"Their record is bad because the league is really tough and they're inexperienced," Sacramento coach Paul Westphal said, "but if you can beat San Antonio, you can beat anybody."

On the road, the Clippers are 0-10.

Having piled up 18 losses—

most in the league—they're already in a deep hole in the standings and it's not even January.

"You get judged by wins and losses," first-year coach Vinny Del Negro said. "Am I happy where we're at? No. After a while, the talk gets a little stale. No one enjoys losing, especially me."

The Clippers led the Los Angeles Lakers by 12 points in the third quarter before losing to the two-time defending NBA champions 87-86 on Wednesday. Two nights earlier, they led the Kings by 16 points in the fourth quarter before hanging on to win 98-91. Last weekend, they trailed Portland by 22 points and rallied before losing 100-91.

"We just haven't been able to get it together yet," injured center Chris Kaman said. "We're so young and learning every game."

Griffin has lived up to his hype. He's the league's leading rookie scorer and rebounder, and has had 16 double-doubles. Gordon is averaging a career-high 24.3 points, putting him

among the league's top 10, and has scored 20 or more points in 10 consecutive games.

"He's a tremendous kid," Lakers forward Lamar Odom said of Gordon, his teammate on the U.S. national team last summer. "He's quiet and his game does the talking for him. He knows how to play the game and he's got a great future. He was raised the right way when it comes to basketball."

Griffin and Gordon have been the bright spot while injuries have derailed Kaman, Baron Davis and Randy Foye. That's forced Del Negro to start a 20-something lineup for nine consecutive games, giving big minutes and valuable experience to rookies Eric Bledsoe and Al-Farouq Aminu, along with DeAndre Jordan.

"It makes it harder for us to win games because of inexperience and mistakes," Del Negro said. "We have a lot of teaching and developing to do. I don't use that as an excuse. I knew it was a difficult situation (coming in)."

Griffin is technically a rookie, too, having missed all of last

season with a knee injury after being selected No. 1 in the 2009 draft. But no less an expert than Lakers coach Phil Jackson doesn't consider him one.

"He might be a little like a young (Amare) Stoudamire," Jackson said, citing Griffin's physical power and ability to finish around the basket.

Griffin had 16 points and 11 rebounds in the loss to the Lakers.

"He's terrific," Kobe Bryant said. "I'd like to see him trust his shot more because he's a good shooter. Just let that ball fly and he's going to be ever tougher to defend."

Davis returned last Sunday against Portland after missing 14 games because of a cyst behind his left knee. He came into training camp out of shape and Del Negro is bringing him off the bench until he fully regains his conditioning.

Meanwhile, it'll be up to the youngsters to scratch out more wins.

"We're getting better, we're learning," Griffin said. "The important thing is to put what we've learned to use every game."

bounds pass.

Ray Allen led Eastern Conference-leading Boston with 23 points, Rondo had 19 points and 14 assists, Glen Davis added 16 points, and Garnett finished

with 14. Jodie Meeks led Philadelphia with 19 points, and Lou Williams and Thaddeus Young had 16 each, and Elton Brand added 13 points and 14 rebounds.

NBA BRIEFS

Kings assistant coach arrested on suspicion of DUI

SACRAMENTO, Calif.

(AP)—An assistant coach with the Sacramento Kings has been arrested on suspicion of drunken driving. The California Highway Patrol says 47-year-old Mario Elie was taken into custody at 1:15 a.m. Thursday in downtown Sacramento after an officer pulled him over for a broken taillight. The officer reported smelling alcohol in the car and said Elie showed signs of being intoxicated. The CHP says a breath test showed the first-year Kings coach had a blood-alcohol level above the legal limit of 0.08 percent. Elie was booked into Sacramento County Jail and released after posting bail. A message left for Elie through the Kings was not immediately returned. The Kings beat the Washington Wizards 116-91 in Sacramento on Wednesday night.

Bobcats send rookie Collins to D-League

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

(AP)—The Charlotte Bobcats have sent little-used rookie point guard Sheron Collins to Maine of the NBA Development League. The undrafted former Kansas star has appeared in only 12 of Charlotte's 21 games. He's averaging 0.3 points and 0.4 assists as he sits behind starter D.J. Augustin and backup Shaun Livingston in coach Larry Brown's rotation. The Bobcats are hoping the 5-foot-11 Collins sheds more weight after injuries left him unable to work out for much of the summer. Collins is expected to make his debut with the Red Claws on Friday at Erie. Collins is fifth on Kansas' all-time scoring list with 1,888 points and ranks seventh with 552 assists.

Mavericks 102, Nets 89

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki had 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Shawn Marion added 18 points as Dallas stretched its winning streak to 11 games, spoiling former Mavericks coach Avery Johnson's return.

Johnson, fired by the Mavericks after the 2007-08 season, is in his first season with the Nets.

Jason Terry and Caron Butler added 15 points each, and J.J. Barea had a career-high 13 assists to help the Mavericks extend the NBA's longest current winning streak.

Brook Lopez led New Jersey with 24 points. The Nets have lost six straight and 11 in a row on the road.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	18	4	.818	—
New York	14	9	.609	4 1/2
Toronto	8	14	.364	10
Philadelphia	7	15	.318	11
New Jersey	6	17	.261	12 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	15	7	.682	—
Atlanta	15	8	.652	1/2
Miami	15	8	.652	1/2
Charlotte	8	13	.381	6 1/2
Washington	6	15	.286	8 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	12	8	.600	—
Indiana	10	10	.500	2
Milwaukee	8	13	.381	4 1/2
Cleveland	7	15	.318	6
Detroit	7	16	.304	6 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	18	3	.857	—
Dallas	18	4	.818	1/2
New Orleans	14	7	.667	4
Memphis	9	14	.391	10
Houston	8	13	.381	10

Northwest Division

Utah	16	7	.696	—
Oklahoma City	15	8	.652	1
Denver	13	8	.619	2
Portland	11	11	.500	4 1/2
Minnesota	5	17	.227	10 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	16	6	.727	—
Phoenix	11	11	.500	5
Golden State	8	14	.364	8
Sacramento	5	15	.250	10
L.A. Clippers	5	18	.217	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Boston 102, Philadelphia 101
Dallas 102, New Jersey 89
Portland 97, Orlando 83

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	19	168	160	524	27.6
Bryant, LAL	22	201	154	585	26.6
Stoudemire, NYK	23	221	143	590	25.7
Rose, CHI	19	183	82	477	25.1
Nowitzki, DAL	21	202	103	523	24.9
Ellis, GOL	22	208	94	540	24.5
Gordon, LAC	21	164	154	510	24.3
James, MIA	23	184	162	555	24.1
Westbrook, OKC	23	182	176	546	23.7
Anthony, DEN	20	157	127	455	22.8
Martin, HOU	21	130	165	470	22.4
Wade, MIA	22	167	136	484	22.0
Beasley, MIN	20	177	68	440	22.0
Williams, UTA	23	168	132	501	21.8
Granger, IND	20	151	81	432	21.6
Gay, MEM	23	191	82	496	21.6
Bargnani, TOR	22	178	86	466	21.2
Scola, HOU	21	178	85	441	21.0
Howard, ORL	19	139	120	398	20.9
Ginobili, SAN	21	129	111	423	20.1

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Hilario, DEN	90	145	.621
Gasol, MEM	99	161	.615
Young, PHL	110	185	.595
Horford, ATL	164	278	.590
Johnson, TOR	81	139	.583
Ibaka, OKC	97	167	.581
Howard, ORL	139	240	.579

McGee, WAS	86	149	.577
Odom, LAL	136	236	.576
Okafor, NOR	84	150	.560

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Love, MIN	22	106	236	342	15.5
Noah, CHI	20	84	162	246	12.3
Howard, ORL	19	54	176	230	12.1
Randolph, MEM	19	77	148	225	11.8
Griffin, LAC	23	87	183	270	11.7
Gasol, LAL	22	79	176	255	11.6
Camby, POR	21	69	151	220	10.5
Odom, LAL	22	52	167	219	10.0
Biedrins, GOL	22	71	147	218	9.9
Garnett, BOS	21	21	185	206	9.8

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	17	239	14.1
Paul, NOR	21	221	10.5
Nash, PHX	20	210	10.5
Williams, UTA	23	231	10.0
Wall, WAS	14	127	9.1
Kidd, DAL	21	186	8.9
Westbrook, OKC	23	198	8.6
Felton, NYK	23	197	8.6
Rose, CHI	19	155	8.2
James, MIA	23	169	7.3

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	2	0	.833	379	269
N.Y. Jets	9	3	0	.750	267	232
Miami	6	6	0	.500	215	238
Buffalo	2	10	0	.167	243	333

South

Jacksonville	7	5	0	.583	257	300
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538	347	318
Houston	5	7	0	.417	288	321
Tennessee	5	8	0	.385	291	265

North

Pittsburgh	9	3	0	.750	267	191
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	260	201
Cleveland	5	7	0	.417	229	239
Cincinnati	2	10	0	.167	255	322

West

Kansas City	8	4	0	.667	295	237
Oakland	6	6	0	.500	283	269
San Diego	6	6	0	.500	323	253
Denver	3	9	0	.250	256	333

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	8	4	0	.667	308	247
Philadelphia	8	4	0	.667	344	281
Washington	5	7	0	.417	222	293
Dallas	4	8	0	.333	294	336

South

Atlanta	10	2	0	.833	304	233
New Orleans	9	3	0	.750	299	227
Tampa Bay	7	5	0	.583	243	251
Carolina	1	11	0	.083	154	307

North

Chicago	9	3	0	.750	246	192
Green Bay	8	4	0	.667	303	182
Minnesota	5	7	0	.417	227	253
Detroit	2	10	0	.167	278	306

West

Seattle	6	6	0	.500	240	289
St. Louis	6	6	0	.500	232	237
San Francisco	4	8	0	.333	203	259
Arizona	3	9	0	.250	200	338

Yesterday's Game

Indianapolis 30, Tennessee 28

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Black Jack Championship this weekend

Around 100 participants are expected to compete on Tinian for the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino’s two-day Black Jack Championship this weekend.

The Top 7 finishers will receive cash prizes from a \$70,000 pot; vacancies are still available. The entry fee is \$1,000, which includes two nights stay at the TDHC, free meals, and beverage-

es during the tournament and round trip airfare to and from Saipan. The Top 3 finishers will also receive trophies.

Baccarat tourney, Jan. 15, 16

In addition, TDHC will also be hosting its Baccarat Challenge on January 15 and 16. The event package also costs \$1,000, which includes entrance into

the tournament, a two nights stay at the TDHC, free meals, and cocktails during the tournament and round trip airfare to and from Saipan.

At least 100 are expected to compete in the Baccarat Challenge, where the cash prizes depend on the size of the overall turnout. Trophies will also be awarded to the Top 3 finishers. *(Walter Sutherland)*

ROLLERS

From Page 28

The victory moved Rollers A to the finals against the Sonics. The title tiff will be played on Monday, Dec. 13, at 5pm.

Rollers A cruised to an easy win after limiting Rollers B to two points in the second quarter.

Rollers B was still in the game, trailing by only eight after the first quarter, 8-16, when drought hit the former in the second period. Rollers B was without a field goal in the second canto and only scored two free throws.

By the end of the first half, Rollers B founded itself in a deep hole, as Rollers A went ahead, 32-10. Stacy Macaranas and Darrel Suarel paced Rollers A in the first half, drilling six points apiece. Macaranas continued to sizzle for

Rollers A in the third period, firing seven straight markers at one point in that quarter. His seven-points was enough to outgun the entire Rollers B crew, who still struggled, offensively, making only four points in the third period.

Rollers B finally got its offense, going in the fourth quarter, as Rollers A let its guards down after seizing a commanding 40-14 lead, entering the final canto. Rollers B outscored Rollers A, 19-9, in the fourth quarter, but the latter still came out on top with a 16-point win.

Macaranas paced Rollers A with 12 points.

In the finals, Rollers A will be the underdog against the undefeated Sonics. The Sonics gained the first finals berth after crushing Agape in the semifinals last Tuesday, 68-38.

Meanwhile, the championship game

8 SWIMMERS

From Page 28

Kang won by only two points against teammate Ryuto Yanai, who gained 44 markers off two first place finishes (50m butterfly and 50m freestyle) and three second place (50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, and 200m IM).

Rounding out the Top 3 was another Tsunami Saipan swimmer, Mark Maestro, who earned 24 points after coming in at third in the 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, 50m freestyle, and 50m IM.

The girls U8 first place also went to a Tsunami Saipan swimmer, Miku Tammy, who tallied 28 points after ruling the 50m backstroke and 50m freestyle and finishing second in the 50m breaststroke.

Tammy’s teammate Kyona Rivera and Saipan Swim Club’s Hannah Palacios took the runner-up and third place honors, respectively. Rivera logged 26 points off a first place finish in the 50m breaststroke and runner-up in the 50m

backstroke and 50m freestyle. Palacios totaled 12 points after coming in at third in the 50m backstroke and 50m freestyle.

Kento Akimaru gave SSC its first place finish in the meet after topping the boys’ 9 to 10 age group with his 50 points. The SSC bet won all the five events, beating Tsunami Saipan’s Ryosei Toda (36 points) and Hiroto Yanai (34). Toda had three second-place finishes (50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, and 200m IM) and two third place (50m butterfly and 50m freestyle). Yanai placed third in the 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, and 200m IM and second in the 50m butterfly and 50m freestyle.

Julie Conner of Tsunami Saipan collected 50 points to take the girls’ 9 to 10 first place, while teammates Kaito Yanai and Angel Tan prevailed in the 11 to 12 age group.

Kaito Yanai tallied 50 points after sweeping the five events. He beat teammate Takumi Sugie (40 points) and Kosei Toda (12).

Tan duplicated Kaito Yanai’s feat, top-

ROACH

From Page 28

pounds), which is two weight levels below Martinez’s middleweight class (160 lbs).

Although the Filipino champion fought Antonio Margarito for the WBC super welterweight title, he weighed 148 lbs. during fight night.

Roach, however, said the Pacquiao-Martinez bout can still happen as long as the Argentine agrees to go down to the 147-lb limit.

He said Martinez remains his most

wanted foe for Pacquiao, next to the undefeated Floyd Mayweather, Jr.

“I was asked about what I thought was the most attractive fight out there, and I said [Floyd] Mayweather, and the second was Martinez--if he can make 147,” he said.

Roach vowed to keep Pacquiao fighting at the welterweight limit where the boxing superstar is more “comfortable” in.

If Martinez refuses to go down to 147 lbs., then “the Pacquiao fight won’t happen because he’s too small.”

Like Pacquiao, Martinez is currently

a “hot item” in the world of boxing.

Martinez (46-2-2) last fought American Paul Williams in November. He delivered a stunning performance via a second-round knockout. With the victory, he successfully retained his WBC middleweight title.

Roach said a more feasible fight for Pacquiao in terms of weight classes is against the controversial Mayweather.

Mayweather (41-0) is much-wanted foe for the Pacman (53-3-2).

However, Mayweather’s legal troubles have apparently dimmed chances for the supposed “Fight of the Century.”

year’s top athlete awardees. Heo and Bennette won the 2009 Male and Female Athletes of the Year awards, while Wonenberg and Mancao took the 2009 Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year trophies.

The 2009 Coach of the Year award went to athletics’ Elias Rangamar, while tennis’ Jeff Race and golf’s Frank Castro were inducted to the 2009 class of the CNMI Hall of Fame.

SEARCH

From Page 28

Nominations should include a detailed list of accomplishments of the nominees for 2010 (for Coach of the Year). A thorough information on the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame nominee’ fetes is also required and details should include accomplishments from past to present.

Nominees for the CNMI Sports Hall

of Fame could be an athlete, coach, official, or administrator and only NMASA-member federations are allowed to nominate individuals for the elite group.

Member or members of the 2010 class of the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame will be inducted during the 2010 NMASA Awards Banquet next year. The Coach of the Year will also be honored in the same event, along with the recipients of the Athletes of the Year and the Student

Athletes of the Year.

Top athlete awardees will be selected among the individuals who won NMASA monthly plums his year.

Several nominations for the Coach of the Year award are expected as various coaches successfully steered their wards in different competitions this year, particularly during the 2010 Micronesia Games in Palau.

The CNMI finished second overall



Miller has 22 points, Blazers beat Magic

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Manning throws for 319, Colts beat Titans

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28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Angel Marie Tan races in the 50m butterfly event during the Tsunami Saipan Pentathlon Meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



8 swimmers top pentathlon meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Eight swimmers were the best among the rest during the Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center Pentathlon Meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

On top of the list was Tsunami

Saipan's Lukas Kang, who did not only make an age group record in the 200m individual medley, but also

ruled the boys U8 age group after collecting 46 points in five events.

The 7-year-old Kang finished

first in the 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, and 200m IM to gain 10 points in each event. He then

placed second in the 50m butterfly and 50m freestyle to add 16 more points to his total.

Points were awarded to swimmers based on how they finished in the five races. A first place finish gave them 10 points, eight for second, and six for third.

See 8 SWIMMERS on Page 27

Rollers A eases way to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rollers A showed no love lost to Rollers B, pounding its sister team, 49-33, during their playoff game in the U15 division of the 2010 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

See ROLLERS on Page 27



Rollers A's Daniel Camacho beats two Rollers B players in the battle for the rebound during their playoff game in the U15 division of the Rotary caging last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

Search for Coach of the Year, Hall of Fame members on

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The race for the 2010 Coach of the Year and members of the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame, class of 2010, is on with sports federations required to submit their nominations in writing on or before Jan. 6.

See SEARCH on Page 27



Pacquiao



Martinez

Roach: No Pacquiao versus Martinez bout



MANILA, Philippines—Renowned trainer Freddie Roach does not think there will be a bout between World Boxing Council champions Manny Pacquiao and Sergio Martinez.

"It won't happen," Roach told BoxingScene.com.

Pacquiao's real weight class is welterweight (147

See ROACH on Page 27